

Remembering their names
Reliving the horror of murder and
honoring the memories of transgenders.
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World AIDS Day roundup
Events help bring home the
point that AIDS isn't over.
page 12



'Folk,' American-style
Showtime's 'Queer
As Folk' premieres.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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XY magazine, photographer being sued by twin models

by Ed Walsh

XY magazine, struggling to get back on its feet after a year of financial difficulties and missed publishing deadlines, is now facing double trouble.

The glossy gay teen monthly and well-known photographer Steven Underhill are being sued by twin models whose pictures appeared on the front cover of the magazine in 1996 and again this spring. In the suit filed in Sonoma County Superior Court, Santa Rosa residents Nick and Rick Batres claim misappropriation of their likeness, libel, and infliction of emotional distress.



Nick and Rick Batres on the cover of XY mag

Rick Batres, now 24, told the *Bay Area Reporter* he and his brother agreed to pose for Underhill when they were 16 but he never gave his permission for the photographs to be used for any publication.

"This has been going on since 1996. It was time to put a stop to it," said Batres. "Steve [Underhill] never so much as even gave me a phone call or asked my permission. It was inconsiderate and rude. I have nothing against gay people at all but I'm a straight guy and people get the wrong impression about what's really going on. I felt like I was disrespected and used. This lawsuit more than anything is so I don't have to keep seeing my picture in that magazine. It was never with my permission."

"This is my first lawsuit," Batres added. "I don't sue people. I'm not a money-grabbing person at all but there just came a point where you have to take a stand."

Batres told the *B.A.R.* that he and
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Milk March celebrates return to district elections

by Terry Beswick

It was 22 years ago that former Supervisor Dan White slipped through a basement window at San Francisco's City Hall with a loaded gun and made his way to the offices of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, where he unloaded five bullets into each man.

"Do you ever feel like your life is on fast-forward video?" asked Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, speaking to some 100 people who braved a chilly San Francisco evening for the 22nd annual Milk/Moscone Candlelight Memorial March on Monday, November 27, the anniversary of the brutal assassinations.

Organized by the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, this year's event had a special significance. In addition to commemorating Milk's and Moscone's deaths, the memorial marked the return of district elections to San Francisco, a system of electing members to the Board of Supervisors by district that was abolished in favor of citywide elections following the 1978 assassinations.

After a brisk but somber walk down Market Street from the site of Milk's old camera



An estimated 100 people walked from Harvey Milk's former camera shop in the Castro down Market Street to City Hall Monday, November 27, to remember the late gay supervisor and former Mayor George Moscone, who were gunned down 22 years ago by former Supervisor Dan White.

Jane Philonen Cleland

store at 575 Castro Street, the crowd gathered before a small stage erected across the street from City Hall.

Ammiano and Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) were the two

principal speakers for this year's event. Both spoke with reverence and praise for the legacies of the slain civil rights leaders, and both emphasized that while much progress has
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The Castro's holiday spirit

The traditional holiday tree on Castro Street, sponsored by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, was decorated last week. From left, Jerry Roberts, Wolf Sterling, and Salvatore Rinauro, were taking advantage of the holiday crowds by selling autographed copies of the 2001 *Bare Chest Calendar*, which they will continue doing every Saturday until Christmas.



Rick Gerhardt

Bay Area Reporter runoff endorsements

San Francisco Supervisor

- District 1 Michael Yaki
- District 3 Lawrence Wong
- District 4 No endorsement
- District 5 Juanita Owens
- District 6 Chris Dittenhafer
- District 7 Mabel Teng
- District 8 Mark Leno
- District 10 Linda Richardson
- District 11 No endorsement

Don't forget to vote on
Tuesday, December 12.

Medical pot goes to high court

by Liz Highleyman

On Monday, November 27, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether medical marijuana can be provided to patients who demonstrate "medical necessity." Cannabis distribution – for medicinal or any other reason – is currently illegal under federal laws. Many patients use the herb to relieve loss of appetite related to AIDS, to relieve nausea caused by cancer and anti-HIV drugs, and for several other illnesses, including cancer and glaucoma.

This week's decision is the latest involving the case of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative. In January 1998, the federal government filed a lawsuit against the OCB and five other California buyers' clubs to prevent them from providing medical marijuana. Federal Judge Charles Breyer issued a preliminary injunction imposing such a ban, and the Oakland club stopped selling marijuana in October of that year.

However, in September 1999, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Breyer's ruling and instructed him to reconsider the case. The court stated that the OCB had "identified a strong public interest in the availability of a doctor-prescribed treatment that would help ameliorate the condition and relieve the pain and suffering of a large group of
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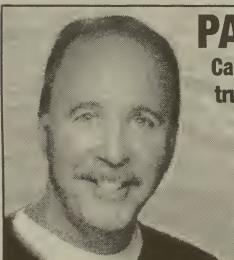


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A Thanksgiving feast



Volunteer Tim James, right, serves one of over 300 diners at the third annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Most Holy Redeemer Church and Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco Thursday, November 23. The traditional menu was served, with donated foods and other dishes prepared by parishioners and volunteers.

Breast cancer license plate hits the streets

by Katie Szymanski

Many lesbians have had the routine drilled into their consciousness: once a month, women should extend their arms above their heads and work their fingers around their breasts and armpits, looking for unusual lumps. What they find may save their lives, as breast cancer is about 90 percent curable when caught early. Yet thousands of women die of the disease annually, usually because they are poor, have little or no insurance, and can't afford medical care. For this reason, private organizations have been working overtime to make sure the underinsured receive the treatments they need. But money is tight.

Now entering the market for the fashionable driver is the special "Breast Cancer Treatment" license plate, designed after the postal stamp of the same theme. Proceeds from the sale of the plates will go into California's newly created Breast Cancer Treatment Fund, authorized by Governor Gray Davis in May to replace the dwindling private funds that have for years supported women in need.

The plate is "very attractive," boasts Lindsay Smith, a spokeswoman for carclub.com, one of the outlets offering the product. The plate is also available through Cure Breast Cancer Inc. and can be given as a holiday gift.

It is a feel-good way to make a difference and draw awareness to the problem, as specialized plates often act as traveling billboards for their cause. But the plate does have its critics, most notably for the way consumers' money will be spent under the guise of creating a state-funded program.

Here's how it works: for the first year that the plates are available, none of the money will go to breast cancer treatment but rather to cover the Department of Motor Vehicles' costs for creating and operating the new program. From then on, the amount going to the fund is high: \$34 per every \$50 plate will go to helping the underinsured treat their disease. Still, the fact that this fund is supposed to be sponsored by the state leads Barbara Brenner, executive director of Breast Cancer Action, to cry foul.

"The state should absolutely be funding the treatment of low-income women. That's what was authorized," Brenner told the Bay Area Reporter. "It's very important

that the state be paying for it when in fact this is the private citizen paying for it."

Brenner recommends that people give directly to a treatment organization or fund (emphasis on treatment, since research is already heavily funded) to help low-income women, as that will ensure that no DMV overhead will cut into a donation.

"The people creating and buying these plates obviously have their hearts in the right place," said Brenner. "But they need to be asking hard questions about what aspect of breast cancer they'd like their money to go to, and what organizations are doing that work. There are some very serious questions about how this money is going to be spent, and it simply isn't good enough anymore to say 'I care.'"

Vanity charity plates, however, have a way of appealing to those who would not ordinarily go out of their way to make a donation, so helping to fund the treatment of underinsured women is still better than sporting a plate that reads, "All4Me." Applications for the new license plate are available at www.carclub.com or 1-800-CAR-CLUB, and also at www.curebreastcancer.org. ▼

PWAs invited to job training fair Wed.

by Katie Szymanski

By now, the fact that people with AIDS are returning to work is old news. But that doesn't make it easier for those who are just now considering employment or a change of careers in the midst of dealing with their illnesses.

Offering assistance and a wealth of information is San Francisco's Positive Resource Center, the employment services organization for HIV-positive individuals, which will host an open house this week to showcase the area's various job and skills training programs available at low or no cost to PWAs.

On Wednesday, December 6, from 6 to 7 p.m., all people with HIV are welcome to attend a job training fair that will arm them with knowledge and empower them with their options. Representatives from several groups with specialties in training people with HIV will be on hand to explain everything from courses of

study to how to access college financial aid and government-sponsored job training funds. Organizations participating include the Bay Area Video Coalition's Media Link program; New College of California's HIV/AIDS Re-Entry and Empowerment Project; the Department of Rehabilitation;

the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center; San Francisco State University's Multimedia Studies Program; Asian Neighborhood Design; City College; Jewish Vocational Service; and others. Options presented will include everything from cabinet making,

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Donna Sachet's 'Songs of the Season' this week

by Cynthia Laird

Celebrated local drag performer and fundraiser extraordinaire Donna Sachet will present her seventh annual "Songs of the Season" benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund this Monday and Tuesday, December 4 and 5, at the Plush Room, located at the York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street in San Francisco.

Entertainers scheduled to join

Sachet in the holiday variety show include Sharon McNight, Jo-Carol, Kathleen Antonio, Irene Soderberg, Linda Imperial, TJ and Sheba, Brian Benamati, SDK, The Lollipop Guild, Jay Manaway, Richard Nicole, and Shane Kelly.

Tickets to the event are \$25 in advance and are available online at empsachet@aol.com or by mail from 584 Castro Street, Box 399, San Francisco, CA 94114. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 both nights. ▼

Wong versus Peskin in District 3

by Terry Beswick

Lawrence Wong has his work cut out for him in his bid to represent District 3 on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors.

He and six other candidates managed to hold Aaron Peskin, the top vote-getter, to less than half of the total votes cast on November 7, forcing the neighborhood activist into a runoff.

But with 7,555 votes, or 36.1 percent, Peskin won a plurality of support in 42 of 51 precincts — more than twice as many votes as Wong, with just 3,098, or 14.8 percent.

The final count makes the district one of three in which an openly gay candidate will face an openly heterosexual candidate in the December 12 runoff.

And Wong, 51, twice elected to the Community College Board in citywide elections and executive director of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, believes his sexual orientation played a role in his relatively low returns among the district that is about 49 percent Chinese American.

"When the Chinese community had a choice of [general election candidate] Rose Chung, who's a beauty queen, and me, the gay factor was a consideration," Wong asserted. Chung was among a group of four candidates who each received between 2,000 and 3,000 votes.

"A fundraiser was planned for me on Clement Street," Wong said, by way of example. "Somebody went around telling all the invitees not to go because, they said, 'Lawrence Wong would be more of a gay than an Asian on the board.'"

As a result of this "whispering campaign," Wong said, the owner of the restaurant canceled the event. He declined to name the restaurant.

But Peskin, 37, president of the Telegraph Hill Dweller's Association and of the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit group, questions whether homophobia seriously hurt Wong among the district's voters.

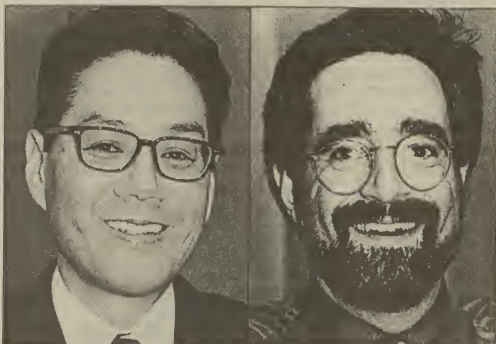
"I have not heard that in the Chinese community, but that doesn't mean it's not there," said Peskin, adding that "if it was as widespread as he thinks it is, we wouldn't be having this runoff."

"Look, this is reality. In reality, Chinese people in Chinatown don't pick up the *Bay Area Reporter*. In fact, I don't think the majority of people in Chinatown know [that Wong is gay]. Nor is it germane. I don't think he's come out in Chinatown," Peskin stated. "That's the reality."

Regardless of whether Wong has mentioned his sexual orientation in every Chinatown speech, "Now the Chinese community has solidified behind me," Wong stated, "because they want someone who looks like them."

District 3 embraces a panoply of racial groups, economic classes, and sexual orientations as diverse as San Francisco as a whole. It includes North Beach, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, the Financial District, Embarcadero, Polk Gulch, and three noteworthy bumps in the road: Nob, Russian, and Telegraph hills.

"The whole district is historically kind of the cradle of San Francisco," said Peskin. "The dis-



District 3 candidates Lawrence Wong, left, and Aaron Peskin.

trict also has some of the richest and the poorest, obviously."

As such, as with the other contested and equally diverse districts in the city, District 3's runoff election is expected to be heavily influenced by the two political powerhouses of San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown and his reigning nemesis, Board President Tom Ammiano.

Evidently concerned more with the city's growth policies than with sexual orientation, openly gay Ammiano has endorsed Peskin, while the decidedly heterosexual Brown recently gave his support to Wong after his appointed candidate, incumbent Supervisor Alicia Becerra, had a dismal showing and failed to make it into the runoff.

While Chung has endorsed Peskin, Wong's candidacy has been endorsed by Becerra, as well as by two other former competitors, Democratic Central Committee member Meagan Levitan, and Republican Central Committee Member Mike DeNunzio.

U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have also recently endorsed Wong.

Now, Wong's biggest worry is that opponent Peskin will try to make him out to be another puppet of Brown. "I know that Aaron Peskin is going to try to paint me as a Willie Brown person," Wong charged.

Stand by your man

Peskin countered that such a strategy would make little sense, noting that in the mayoral runoff between Ammiano and Brown last year, 60 percent of the rela-

tively conservative district went for Brown.

"The biggest thing I'm up against is that I have Tom Ammiano's endorsement," stated Peskin. Interestingly enough, Peskin also enjoys the support of former mayoral candidate Clint Reilly, as well as pro-development politico and Residential Builder's Association head Joe O'Donoghue.

Prior to the election, saying the Board of Supervisors should have been able to broker a solution before the issue went to the ballot, Wong told the *Bay Area Reporter* on October 27 that he opposed both the mayor's Proposition K and the competing Ammiano-supported Proposition L.

"If I wanted to curry favor with Willie Brown, I would've supported Proposition K," Wong said.

Proposition K aimed to moderately control development in the city, while Proposition L, which Peskin supported, was a much stricter slow-growth initiative that aimed to curb displacement of the city's housing stock. Both measures failed on Election Day.

"I don't disagree with the notion that Propositions K and L should not have been on the ballot," Peskin commented in retrospect. "But you could say that about everything after Proposition E."

"I think that you and I know I am an independent; I did not get any support from the mayor or Clint Reilly who is supporting Peskin," Wong remarked. "I was just out there on my own."

"With Clint Reilly," continued Wong, clearly relishing the chance to tie Peskin to the pro-growth mil-

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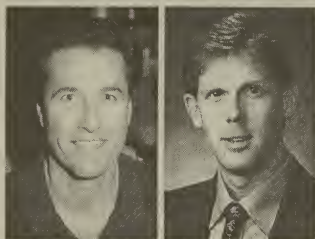
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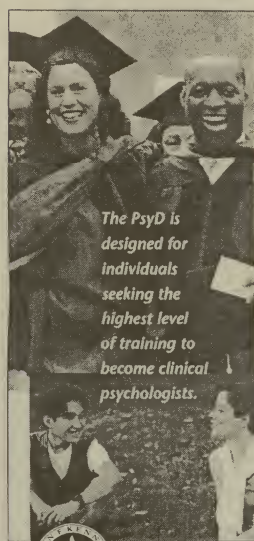
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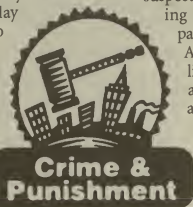
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Turkey

by Jane Warner

100 block of Collingwood, November 24, 11:30 a.m.: A man called police when he woke up the day after Thanksgiving and found his apartment ransacked. The resident told responding officers that he had befriended two men in the Castro and invited them to stay at his house for the holiday because they had no place to go. During the course of the evening, the men drank numerous shots of Jack Daniels and Seagrams 7. The resident told police he passed out and woke up at 5 in the morning to find the men going through his belongings. Telling him they were just rearranging his furniture, the resident believed their story and fell back asleep. When he woke six hours later, he discovered his apartment torn apart, \$3,500 in cash missing from a strong box, and his newly acquired buddies nowhere to be found. The suspects are described as white males. One is about 50 years old, 5 feet 11 inches, 185 pounds, with a brown beard, the other suspect is described as 19 years old, 5 feet 6 inches, 150 pounds, possibly the son of the first suspect. Both are believed to be either from Florida or New Hampshire.



Stuffing

23rd and Church, November 24, 10:30 p.m.: Two men walking down Church Street heard glass breaking, looked over and saw a man breaking into a parked car. One of the men called 911 on his cell phone as they watched the suspect take two jackets from the car and walk northbound on Church. The men followed the suspect from a distance, giving directions to a dispatcher over the phone. A short time later, police found the suspect at 22nd and Church and took him into custody without incident.

Two of the officers at the scene recognized the suspect as someone they had arrested several months ago for the same offense. When reminded of the arrest, the man stated, "Oh yeah, I remember. You guys got me when I broke into the red Honda."

Tart

Collingwood and 18th, November 25, 7:30 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a man being assaulted in Cala's parking garage with the suspect last seen running eastbound on 18th.

Police met with the victim who told officers that two days ago he passed the suspect on the street and told him, "Hi, cute boy." The suspect became angry and threatened, "I'm going to hit you and

put a boot up your ass." Fearing for his safety, the man pepper sprayed the "cute boy."

Then, two days later, as he was walking up to his car, the man saw the "cute boy" again, who ran up to him and punched him in the head (but did not put a boot up his ass). The victim was treated for a small cut to the ear and released at the scene.

Sauce

Eureka at Market, November 23, 7 p.m.: A man traveling westbound on Market lost control of his rented Avis car and high centered the medium island, coming to rest after striking a cement light pole. Neither the driver nor the passenger were injured, but the car sustained severed front end damage.

After interviewing the driver, responding police detected a strong odor of alcohol. The driver failed a portion of a sobriety test and a search of the car revealed an open cognac bottle. The driver was placed under arrest and a test revealed his alcohol blood content was twice the legal limit.

When asked for his version of the events, the driver stated, "I was just trying to go to Twin Peaks and all of the sudden the street just turned hilly." ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

SF gay dance club sued over patron's death

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco's most popular gay dance club, Club Universe, is being sued by the family of a San Jose man who collapsed and died in the club last winter. The wrongful death lawsuit charges that club employees waited too long to call 911 after Jeffrey Goring, 35, collapsed on the stage dance floor February 13.

In an interview two weeks after the incident, Club Universe's events manager and part-owner, Audrey Joseph, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the club acted quickly and appropriately and that some delay in calling for an ambulance was understandable considering the confusion of events.

Joseph said the first radio call went out for help from a club se-



Jeff Goring

curity guard at 2:40 a.m., after the guard first made contact with Goring. Joseph said a club customer had alerted the guard that Goring was down. The guard first administered CPR to Goring on the stage and he was carried off the stage to the back hallway before 911 was called. Dispatch

records show a 911 call was made by the club at 2:48 a.m., eight minutes after Joseph said her security guard first came in contact with Goring.

Paramedics first arrived on scene at 2:52 a.m. San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens, told the B.A.R. that paramedics reported Goring had been attended to by people in the club for 15 minutes before they arrived. Varying accounts have listed the time of Goring's collapse anywhere from 2:30 a.m. to 2:35 a.m.

Some have speculated the club may have hesitated calling 911 immediately out of concern that 911 calls were being used by police as ammunition to further crack down on all-night clubs like Club Universe. Joseph denied that charge and said some delay was understandable, partly because the nearest phones were in the front of the club, on the opposite end of the club from the hallway where Goring was taken.

Stephens said that Goring suffered from hypertension and likely died of a heart attack. No drugs or alcohol were found in his system.

The lawsuit is in its deposition and discovery phase. Like most civil lawsuits, the case could wind up being settled out of court to avoid a costly trial. San Francisco attorney James Goodfellow is representing the Goring family. He declined comment on the case.

Goring worked as a banquet server at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Friends and co-workers said they will always remember his smile, kindness, and upbeat disposition.

"He had one philosophy in life," said best friend Steve Cohen. "Despite what he had to go through being both gay and African American, he always believed there was good in everyone." ▼

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COLAGE director wins Stonewall Award

by Terry Beswick

When Felicia Park-Rogers got a Federal Express letter earlier this month from the Chicago-based Anderson Prize Foundation, she had to read the first paragraph three times. Then she had to ask a colleague to read it for her — she thought perhaps she was hallucinating.

Park-Rogers, the letter announced, had just been selected by an anonymous panel to receive an unsolicited \$50,000 Stonewall Award by the foundation.

Now in its 10th year, the awards are given out annually to individuals in recognition of their work to improve the quality of life for gays and lesbians in America. A total of 38 awards totaling near-

ly \$1 million have been given out, and this year, the awards were doubled in size.

Born and raised in San Francisco by gay and bisexual parents, Park-Rogers, 29, is executive director of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gay Everywhere), the only national organization

specifically formed to support young people with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents. She has worked with the group since 1996, and is a frequent conference speaker and workshop leader on youth empowerment, reconciliation of religion and sex-

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Felicia Park-Rogers

'Love and Justice' youth celebration Wed.

by Katie Szymanski

Where else can you hang out with queer youth, enjoy the new Women's Building, and praise the younger role in civil rights all in one evening? Community United Against Violence will present "Generations Ig-

nited" this Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m. to honor its new Love and Justice program, operated in conjunction with the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center to empower teens and young adults to become leaders in our communities.

Generations Ignited will honor key activists and allies who have initiated and supported the leadership of queer youth, including Jennifer Howard, for mobilizing attention and support for housing for homeless youth; Camille Moran, for exposing the abuse of gender-variant youth by mental institutions; the Reverend Yvette Flunder and the Ark Of Refuge, for pioneering the struggle to open the first queer youth shelter in the Castro; the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County, for providing a range of services to queer and questioning youth; and the Columbia Foundation, for leading the way for support of youth-focused

programs and organizations.

Wednesday's event begins with a reception, and a program of awards and the new Love and Justice Project will begin at 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served, multimedia performances will be featured, a silent auction will take place, and there will be deejays and dancing. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$45 per nonprofit representative, low-income person, or student, and \$10 per youth; no youth will be turned away for lack of funds. Valet parking is provided and public transportation is the 16th Street BART, the J-Church Muni, or the 33, 26, or 14 bus lines. The Women's Building is at 18th and Valencia; you can't miss the multi-story mural that dominates the district. For more information, call (415) 864-8523, or e-mail info@poulos-brothers.com. To RSVP to Generations Ignited, call (415) 864-8582. ▼

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East Bay AIDS groups honored at MCC service

by Katie Szymanski

Whether they're religious or simply in the mood to celebrate World AIDS Day with more than a lapel ribbon, many residents of the East Bay and beyond will be attending Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Hayward this Sunday to honor those who have passed as well as those who continue to fight the good fight.

MCC-Greater Hayward will award its fourth annual AIDS Ministry Grants during the church's World AIDS Day service on December 3 at 12:30 p.m. Three grants of \$1,000 each will be presented to AIDS service organizations that have made a positive impact on the lives of people in Alameda County. Recipients include Tri-City Health Center, Concord House, and the internship program of the AIDS Housing and Information Project.

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services

in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and American Sign Language, offers no-cost supplemental services, and is open extensively each week. Concord House is a home for low-income homeless adults living with AIDS. The internship program of AHIP serves PWAs returning to work and those who are new to employment by providing skills training and a safe place to explore how a full work schedule will impact one's health.

"The grants are one way for our congregation to encourage increased, effective work with people with AIDS in this part of the county," said MCC pastor Michael England, noting that Alameda often gets overlooked when it comes to Bay Area funding. "AIDS persists as a major global health crisis, despite encouraging progress in treatment and prevention."

Sunday's service and awards presentation is open to everyone. MCC-Greater Hayward is located at Christ Lutheran Church at 100 Hacienda Avenue in San Lorenzo. For more info, call (510) 481-9720. ▼

Living with HIV/AIDS? Currently under treatment? Changing your regimen? What to do with those surplus medications...

AIDSETI and the African AIDS Network would like to welcome a new organization to our national network and family. The River Fund provides physical, emotional and spiritual support to people living with HIV/AIDS and to their loved ones and caregivers. As a volunteer organization serving those who are often alone and in need, we know "there are no throw away people." Access to HIV/AIDS medicines is of global concern and the situation in Cuba and South Africa is serious, they must rely on humanitarian donations from individuals like you. Please help the AIDSETI/AAN and the River Fund access HIV medicine.

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*These medications are needed most. Please no narcotics, anti-anxiety, anti-depressants or sleeping medication. When sending Fortovase or Norvir soft gel, we need to know the day it came to room temperature.

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West Hollywood, CA 90069
Kevin Kurth
(310) 289-2551 x15

Drop in Health Services
1434 North Rampart St.
New Orleans, LA
Eddie Bonin
(504) 948-6701

River Fund Florida
11155 Roseland Road
Unit 16
Sebastian, FL 32958
Bina Frank
(561) 589-5076

ACT UP Philadelphia
Katie Krauss
(215) 731-1844 or
katie@cripath.org

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Call for hours

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Washington, DC 20009
Michael Relf
(202) 745-6149

River Fund New York
125-16 Sutter Ave
New York, NY 11420
Durga Das
(718) 641.1520

Cuba AIDS Project
at the River Fund
11086 Roseland Road
Sebastian, FL 32958
Bhagavat Truter
(561) 589-5076

MCC
150 Eureka Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
Steve Marlowe
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If there is no drop off location near you, please mail any donations to:
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Men and AIDS

This year's 13th annual World AIDS Day theme is a fitting one: "AIDS: All Men - Make a Difference." The theme's goal is to encourage all men—including men who have sex with men—to increase their awareness about the risk of HIV/AIDS infection for themselves, their partners, and their families and to use their influence to help stem the tide of the epidemic.

This year's focus on men is something we're glad to see as it reinforces something we've always known: men who have unprotected sex with men still represent the largest risk category for infection with HIV. Also, HIV infections and AIDS deaths in men worldwide outnumber those in women on every continent except sub-Saharan Africa.

While the San Francisco Department of Public Health badly mishandled its announcement earlier this year that HIV cases are dramatically increasing in San Francisco, we don't dispute the bottom line that HIV cases are going up in the city that long ago created the so-called "model" for AIDS care and treatment in the country and the world. It's obvious to us that the model needs to be updated—perhaps drastically—so that more attention and money can be devoted to HIV prevention campaigns in an effort to decrease the HIV infection rate. Prevention has always lagged behind treatment when it comes to funding—in HIV as well as other diseases. It's apparent to us that preventing a disease means that fewer people will get the disease.

Public health officials and HIV prevention workers must pay particular attention to young men, who are especially at risk for contracting HIV. About one in four people with HIV are young men under the age of 25. They have grown up in the era of HIV/AIDS, and since the disease isn't the death sentence it once was for many, a lot of young people are in denial about becoming infected and living with HIV once they are. Living with HIV/AIDS is no picnic, it requires life-altering changes for many, and right now at least, a dependence on toxic medications to keep the virus at undetectable levels. As anyone living with HIV/AIDS will tell you, it's no fun. Yet the drug companies, in their zeal to market dif-

ferent combinations of medications, continually portray PWAs as being able to do almost anything. Smiling faces in ads grace the pages of virtually all gay publications—including this one—and reinforce the notion that HIV/AIDS is a chronic, manageable condition. Tell that to the PWA who can't leave his house because of diarrhea, or whose body has become disfigured because of the HIV drugs that are helping him survive. It's not pretty, it's not easy, and living with HIV/AIDS is not enjoyable.

As for those living with HIV/AIDS, more effective treatments are desperately needed. As Jeff Getty notes in this week's Survive AIDS column, since 1996, when protease inhibitors hit the market, there has been little or no advancement in the drug arsenal. People like Getty, who are resistant to the drugs, require stronger and more toxic remedies month after month, and there aren't many choices left

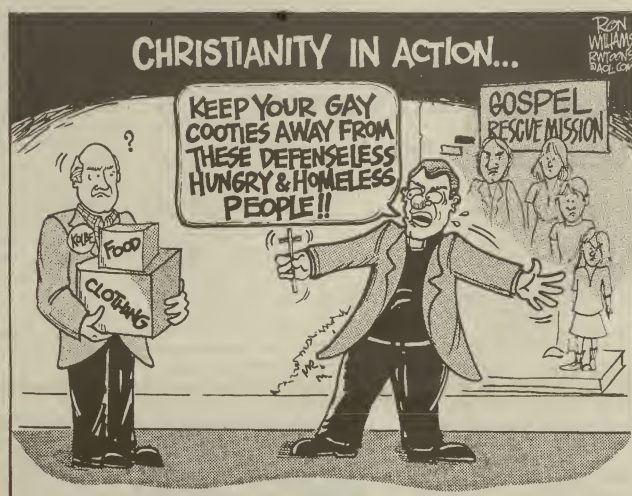
for them.

Leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS starts at the top, and that means with the U.S. president. We are extremely distressed at the increasing reality of a Bush administration, because among other things, Governor George W. Bush has barely mentioned the word "AIDS" in public, and didn't do so until he became a presidential candidate. We remember the Reagan years, when the president stood by as thousands were dying, unable and unwilling to talk publicly about the disease that was wiping out communities.

We dread the possibility of sliding backwards when it comes to HIV/AIDS treatment, education, and prevention, because it took 20 years to get where we are.

In the meantime, public health leaders and politicians in both parties must continue to push for research, treatment, and prevention programs so that we don't have to "celebrate" World AIDS Day forever; it's one day we could do without. ▼

Editorial



Carrying the message of love

by Kara Speltz

It's Thanksgiving morning, the turkey is in the oven, and I'm filled with so many thoughts of gratitude. I have just returned from Washington, D.C., after being arrested with my Soulforce family for blocking the driveway at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Soulforce is a network of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their allies who are committed to putting out the fires of bigotry being lit by our churches, temples, and mosques. We come from many faith traditions. Mostly Christians, we are blessed to be joined by Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Quaker, and other faiths. When we gather together as we did in Washington, D.C., from all over the country, in whatever city, the spirit of God is clearly upon us; you can literally feel that spirit and the experience is awesome.

In just a little over a year, we have carried our message of love and nonviolence to Jerry Falwell, in Lynchburg, Virginia, and to the major denominations at their annual conferences. We have been arrested in Cleveland at the Methodist conference, Orlando at the Southern Baptist conference, in Long Beach at the Presbyterian conference, and in Denver at the Episcopal conference. All told, there have been some 500 arrests. Now we were taking it to my own denomination—Roman Catholic.

From November 12-14, over 250 of our Soulforce and Dignity family came together to speak "truth to power." The truth: that all of us are God's children, and it is time to stop the spiritual violence of the Vatican against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. The power: the Vatican and the bishops who teach that our loving relationships are "intrinsically disordered."

Many Catholics told us we didn't understand. They assumed that we were all Protestants who didn't comprehend how the Catholic Church works. As co-chair of this action I want to say this is not true. Many of those on the planning team were Catholic, including a number of people from Dignity. I am a 63-year-old lesbian, a pastoral minister in the Diocese of Oakland, and a "candle" Catholic. I left the church in the 1970s, angry at its failure to be a voice for those who had no voice, aligning itself with the rich and powerful.

Much to my surprise, I have found myself back in the church. Many of my friends thought I had lost my mind, asking me how I can be a Catholic and a lesbian. But I love my church, and cannot be silent in the face of its bigotry. Soulforce has given me a way to confront it and to call it back to prophetic witness.

Sunday and Monday, we provided training in nonviolence, and on Tuesday, 250 of us marched to the Shrine. Approximately 110 people blocked the driveway to the Shrine. In the front line, in wheelchairs, were the Reverend William Sloan Coffin (the civil rights and antiwar activist), and a 95-year-old grandmother with her young gay grandson. Those who could not be arrested stood across the street to cheer us on. The arrests went as planned and for the most part the police were friendly and cooperative. Arrested with us from the Bay Area were: Christian de la Huerta, author of *Coming Out Spiritually*; the Reverend Kelly Hart; and the Reverend Phil Lawson, pastor of Easter Hill Methodist Church in Richmond, who last summer faced defrocking for performing a holy union in January 1999.

We continued vigiling throughout the bishops' conference at the hotel where they were meeting. It was very cold. One of the few acts of compassion came from the lay ministers to the Military Chaplains who were attending the conference. They brought us out cups of hot coffee to warm us. As a passivist, I must say that I saw a certain irony to that.

Where do we go from here? Gandhi and King teach us that there are several aspects to nonviolent resistance. One aspect is the acts of civil disobedience that have taken place across this country by Soulforce.

Another is noncooperation. While we have been invited to continue the civil disobedience by people of other denominations, we also see the need to put into effect a plan of noncooperation

with those churches who continue to commit spiritual violence against GLBTs. This means pulling our financial support from these churches. Another act of noncooperation for many will be refusing to lead the choirs, and minister within those churches. Can you imagine where these churches might be if GLBTs and their allies stopped cooperating with their oppressors?

We understand that nonviolent acts of resistance do not result in immediate change. It is a long-term commitment. But, it seems to me that it is only through love that true change can come. It was just 13 months ago that our "Journey to Lynchburg" began. Where it will end, I truly believe, only God knows. But, in my heart, I believe that only when we are committed to renewing our own souls in love, can we truly transform our society; otherwise we simply create new systems of oppression. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Owens provides leadership

Regarding the November 23 article, "Owens goes anti-Green in District 5," it is disturbing that given the current political climate, Green Party members continue to defend their support for Ralph Nader. While the Green Party touts Nader's populist messages, Democrats throughout the country worry that progressive leadership on key issues such as reproductive rights, affirmative action, and gay and lesbian rights has been jeopardized by Nader's candidacy.

At the same time, as an advocate for criminal justice reform, I certainly believe that the Democratic Party (and Al Gore in particular) has not addressed the criminalization of African American men who are disenfranchised from the democratic process. We cannot give up on an entire generation. There are obviously factions within both liberal and conservative ideologies, and Democrats have historically proven effective at bridging those differences and arriving at consensus. Juanita Owens's record as an activist and school board member has proven that she is a practical and progressive leader for District 5. As the first openly lesbian school board president in California, Owens has authored legislation on AIDS education and gun control, secured funding for art and music education in schools, opened high school health clinics and commissioned the first mural in history at a San Francisco public high school depicting gay and lesbian historical figures. A lifelong activist, Juanita Owens has worked to empower women, children, youth, the gay and lesbian community, and people of color, and as supervisor, Owens will continue to provide strong leadership on key issues such as education, affordable housing, employment, and community safety.

Andrea Shorter
San Francisco

Supports Green in District 5

Thanks for that even-handed Katie Szymanski piece on the Matt Gonzalez-Juanita Owens contest in District 5 ["Owens goes anti-Green in District 5," November 23]. It's nice to see that parts of the media can use the word "Green" without getting hysterical.

Thanks for understanding that the Green Party is not really a tantrum within the Democratic Party.

And speaking of Juanita Owens, have you noticed in her latest ads she asks for votes so there will be a lesbian on the Board of Supes? I guess this means she's supporting Eileen Hansen against Mark Leno, since Hansen polled a much higher vote total than Owens did. Oh wait, I forgot. Leno and Owens are both Alice Club choices, and Alice members always support the candidate with the most money. They just vary the slogans for each election. They don't actually mean what they say. Silly me.

Steve Karpa
San Francisco

Thanks for the support

I'm writing to thank all those who supported me in my run for supervisor. San Franciscans care deeply about the city in which they live and it was a pleasure to meet so many incredibly caring people. As a candidate and as an elected member of the Democratic County Central Committee, I also had the extreme fortune to meet fellow candidates for supervisor, the Community College Board, and the Board of Education. I believe it takes a tremendous amount of courage to put your ideas and beliefs on the line and campaign to make a sincere difference in the world. I applaud them for their efforts and I wish those who are in the runoffs all the best in providing genuine independent leadership in this city. In District 8, I've endorsed Eileen Hansen to represent my interests at City Hall until 2002 or 2004, when I'll run again.

Shawn O'Hearn
San Francisco

Dittenhafer responds

I am writing in response to a recent article regarding District 6 Supervisor candidates ["Daly's advantage in District 6," November 16]. As the only gay candidate in the race for supervisor in District 6, I am not taking the gay vote for granted. We do need more gay representation on the Board of Supervisors. But we face many more challenges, like affordable housing, homelessness, and growth.

But my opponent is fighting a radical, divisive campaign and painting a picture of District 6 as a war zone between the rich versus the poor. His single-issue focus is driving a wedge between us. He was the first candidate in this race to engage in negative, misleading campaigning. The *San Francisco Bay Guardian* agrees, saying Daly supporters have "gone too far."

San Francisco has long tradition of diversity, tolerance, and acceptance. Harvey Milk was a businessman and fought for the neighborhoods.

If we are truly committed to the "soul" of this city, we have to continue to build partnerships, not walls, between people. We can't afford class warfare in our

own community. We need an outspoken supporter of gay rights and a consensus builder who will choose positive change over agitation. We need someone to permanently protect rent control, support slow growth and offer more help to the homeless.

Above all, we need someone who will unite our district to solve our problems and celebrate our successes. I believe I can do that and I am asking for your vote.

Chris Dittenhafer
Candidate for Supervisor, District 6

Give Daly a chance

To those who live in District 6, and to those who have friends residing here—in SOMA, the Inner Mission, Tenderloin, Hayes Valley and on Treasure Island—please consider my humble opinion before voting in the December 12 runoff for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

It's ironic that San Francisco's two most powerful political figures thought of district elections as their opportunity to build and/or preserve their dominance on the next Board of Supervisors. Mayor Willie Brown had sufficient votes on the old board to do great things. Instead, he handed City Hall over to campaign contributors, lobbyists, and business interests dedicated to stifling reform and maximizing profits. He's played loose and cynical with the initiative process and stood by while the future of this diverse city is trashed by the planning process he controls. Brown demands absolute loyalty from those beholden to him. So much power, so little accomplished.

Always looking over his shoulder, Brown's agenda has been shaped by his fear of what Tom Ammiano would do next. Uneasy with sharing the stage with anyone of similar stature, Ammiano has marched onto the steps of City Hall with one "progressive" initiative after another, but without the ability to deal and compromise and lacking the votes to pass anything into law, his efforts are akin to pissing into the wind.

It's beginning to look like neither of them will control a majority on the next board. Here in District 6, Ammiano's chosen candidate failed to reach the runoff. An intelligent and decent woman, I hope Beryl Magilavay gets to know SOMA better, and vice versa. Brown's candidate, on the other hand, despite a flood of soft money, more than \$15 for each vote gained (twice Michael Huffington's expenditure per vote) landed in a weak second place, barely edging out the bizarre campaign of Carol Ruth Silver. Chris Dittenhafer's only legitimate qualification is his unquestioning loyalty to Willie Brown. The next board has the potential to legislate with a real coalition of the neighborhoods.

I met Chris Daly about six months ago. Smart, but a little too young was my first impression. But Chris used every opportunity to learn about this district, about the workings of City Hall, about the politics of the personal and the possible. A friend who lives in an SRO room was surprised by a visit from him, as he picked his way from one hotel room to the next introducing himself. True, he's surrounded by a bunch of old lefties. This is San Francisco and almost everyone I know fits that description to some extent. But he is reaching out, listening to tenants and property owners, longtime residents as well as the newly arrived. He understands the diversity of this district and grows with every new opportunity. Today I think of Chris as more mature and a whole lot smarter.

The Hearst Examiner, almost as a parting shot, endorsed Daly over Dittenhafer. Tom Ammiano has reconsidered and other members of the board are following suit. Even Gavin Newsom has come out in support of Chris Daly. Politics makes strange bedfellows, but I never thought I'd agree with Newsom on anything. Today I do: The December 12 runoff favors those with money and organization. Just imagine if machine politics regained the upper hand because of our inexperience and indifference. Please give Chris Daly a chance to represent District 6 and I think he'll make all of us proud.

Jim Meko
San Francisco

Ignorance in District 3 race

I am writing in response to the November 16 letter by Vince Quackenbush denigrating the Alice B. Toklas Club's "lavender wave" slate of endorsed supervisorial candidates which included Lawrence Wong.

As a gay Asian, there are many of us who are particularly proud of Lawrence as the only openly gay Asian elected official in San Francisco. I have followed his courageous career for over a decade. He continues to serve as a role model for many gay Asians not only in San Francisco but throughout the nation.

Mr. Quackenbush's letter suggesting that Lawrence was not "even" supported by the Asian or gay communities in the election spoke volumes of his ignorance as to the dynamics of the District 3 race. It was

next page ►

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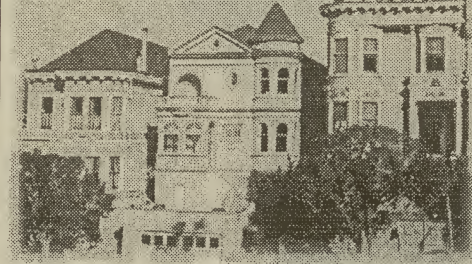
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common knowledge that one of Lawrence's opponents in the general election started a homophobic whispering campaign against Lawrence telling the Asian community not to support Lawrence because "when push came to shove he would support the gay community over the Asian community" (and therefore could not be trusted). Many gay Asians are also shocked to learn that the Harvey Milk Club was not supporting Lawrence as he was fighting blatant homophobia in the Asian community during the election (but was instead supporting Aaron Peskin to represent District 3 which is 54 percent Asian and includes Chinatown). Talk about plantation politics.

The fact that Lawrence made it into the runoff without support from the Brown or Ammiano machines, without the support of the Milk Club, and fighting homophobia in the Asian community says to me that Lawrence is a winner in more ways than one.

Mr. Quackenbush said we should ignore the Alice recommended "lavender wave" and vote our "economic and class interests." Sorry Mr. Quackenbush, many queers of color don't have that luxury. We will continue to support candidates like Lawrence Wong who continue to fight for our dignity and against homophobia in communities of color.

Jason Leong
San Francisco

Doesn't support Leno

Supervisor Mark Leno seems desperate for an image that distances himself from Willie Brown, despite vote after vote that squarely plants him in the mayor's camp. His recent dabbling at occasional uncharacteristic votes knowing the mayor's majority will hold sway anyway, should not fool anyone who has followed his voting record since his appointment.

He complains, according to the *Examiner* (November 16) that to his opponent, Eileen Hansen, "it's all about the machine." Hansen isn't exclusively campaigning on that issue, but as well about the city being for sale, a trend Leno is exacerbating. Leno's problem is his voting record, and looked at carefully, clearly supports Hansen's contentions. A few examples:

• A \$45 million contract award this past August to a Bechtel-led group has some organizations, according to the *Chronicle*, saying that "a private company could end up controlling San Francisco's water system." Leno and the board majority voted to award Bechtel the contract to oversee modernization of the Hetch Hetchy system despite the board's budget analyst, Harvey Rose, declaring that it "did not include performance measures to determine whether Bechtel was doing its job," and it "failed to prove it can do the work more cheaply than city employees," said news reports. Leno received a \$500 campaign contribution from Bechtel in 1998.

• A \$66 million contract for the city's special transit services to the disabled and elderly was pulled from a firm that had held it for eight years, by vote of Leno and a majority of the board. Winning the paratransit contract was Jacqueline Besser, wife of Mayor Brown's former law partner who followed Mayor Brown here and became a City Hall lobbyist. The *Chronicle* called the Bessers "part of the circle of Willie Brown friends who have cashed in on their relationship with the mayor, fueling allegations of cronyism..." The contract award followed deals for the Bessers to manage all transit to and from the airport and another to manage two city garages. Losing the paratransit contract was a Filipina who, it was charged, was "unfairly being pushed aside," despite a reputation among many users as being "the best transit provider in the nation for riders with special needs," according to the *Examiner*.

• In June 1998, San Francisco voted by a 56 percent margin for a proposition that would have removed most control over development of Treasure Island from the mayor by allowing members of the Board of Supervisors each to appoint one member to an oversight commission. On August 10, 1998, Leno voted with seven other supervisors to ignore the public's vote and not enact the measure. On October 31 of that year, an *Examiner* headline read, "Mayor's cronies in line for job," the story detailing how "two political patrons of Mayor Brown's" won a contract to oversee major development on the island. After Leno voted with the board majority to ignore the public, the *Examiner* editorialized that "voters will have [the] opportunity ... to let the supervisors know who is boss in this city."

The opportunity has come. Leno must go.

Alan Collins
San Francisco

Vote independent, vote Hansen

As Mark Leno scrambles to hide his allegiance to Willie Brown, District 8 voters have the opportunity to elect a truly independent supervisor to represent us on the board - Eileen Hansen. I am voting for Eileen because she has the experience and progressive values to help restore San Francisco's vitality and di-

versity. I've seen her in action at community meetings where she's done such an incredible job at bringing together people who hold wildly divergent points of view. On the other side, I've seen Mark Leno hand over his vote to Willie Brown. Let me forget, Mark Leno campaigned hard for Willie Brown in the last election and fought hard against Tom Ammiano's progressive leadership. If you can forgive him this (and that's a big if) then look to Mark Leno's actions on the board over the past two years. He wants us to believe that the rare times he has voted against the mayor constitute meaningful dissent. Just look at how he handled supporting the living wage ordinance. Mark waited until the mayor had already signed on. Then he agreed but only after trying to convince labor to give up one of its basic points. We need independent leadership on the Board of Supervisors, not someone who calculates the risk to his tenure before taking a stand on an issue. Thank goodness, on December 12, we have an alternative in District 8. Vote Eileen Hansen.

Stephen Filandrinos
San Francisco

PLUS-2 coming soon

When I tested positive in 1990 my doctor informed that I had roughly two years to live. I began to act accordingly as if some time bomb were ticking away in my body. The future became a blur and I began living only for "today." After having become a mad drunk party boy fucking the nights away in bathhouses in a sex frenzy and maxing out my credit cards, I realized that this was not the way to live, nor to die for that matter.

Many of us know the anguish of being given a "death sentence" without having the benefit of an execution date. Suddenly the uncertainty of life becomes an exaggerated experimental work in progress. Relationships become strained or non-existent, motivation to finish school withers, career goals become less important, prospects of meeting that "life partner" dim. To plan or not to plan - that was the question.

In the last three years we've seen a glimmer of hope arise with new medical treatments, that may or may not lead us to victory over HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Indeed we have been at war and have fought longer than any reasonable soldier would be called to serve.

It is important to note, however, that although we may not be winning the war as yet, many of us are beating the odds that were given to us 10 or more years ago. And we are beating the odds with or without the new generation of antiviral drugs. Call me jaded, but I often play the game "let's wait and see" with my doctor regarding all of these new drugs. But that's the beauty of living with HIV in the year 2000. We have the ability to make choices for ourselves. By making personal choices and empowering ourselves, people living with HIV have transformed both the medical industry and society to a large scale. This transformation did not come without a price. And it could not have come without experiencing a personal transformation that can only come from within.

Seven years ago, a group of volunteers got together to present the first PLUS (Positive Living for Us) seminar, a two-day weekend workshop for newly diagnosed HIV-positive people in San Francisco. It was born out of the idea that people living with HIV/AIDS need to come together for self-empowerment through the sharing of information and support. Since then, the PLUS seminar transformed the lives of over 1,000 men and women both infected and affected by HIV.

Now, we begin the next phase in our evolution to fight HIV with the PLUS-2 weekend seminar. Seven years after the first PLUS seminar many of us face new challenges, choices and long-term life issues.

PLUS-2 was designed to begin addressing some of those life issues. Hopefully, the new information and support will be useful in providing a framework for people living with HIV to advance to the next level of self-empowerment.

I would like to invite all of the former PLUS participants to call and find out what PLUS-2 is about and to be part of this historical moment. PLUS-2 will be presented the weekend of December 9-10 in San Francisco. Both PLUS and PLUS-2 are part of the Positive Force program at the Stop AIDS Project. For more information or to register for PLUS-2, call (415) 865-0790, ext. 305.

Alfredo Armendariz
PLUS Program Coordinator
Stop AIDS Project

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at BARpaper@aol.com. Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.

Bush claims presidency; Gore awaits high court

by Wayne Friday

Though Florida Secretary of State **Katherine Harris**, a staunch Republican and co-chair of that state's Bush-for-president operation, gave Texas Governor **George W. Bush** and the Republican Party a temporary psychological boost Sunday by officially certifying Bush's win in Florida by 537 votes, and hence handing over the state's 25 electoral votes to Bush, technically making him the president-elect, it is very likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will eventually decide the presidential matter after hearing arguments from both campaigns tomorrow (Friday, December 1).

Ironically, though, Bush publicly claimed the presidency Sunday, based on the Florida certification, it was his campaign that first took the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court and he will now have to at least wait until after the high court's ruling before he can truly claim the presidency. Both **Al Gore** and Bush believe deeply that they won this election and despite the Florida secretary of state's determination that Bush should be proclaimed the president-elect, the Supreme Court is expected to eventually rule whether any of the hand-counted votes should be included in the final Florida count. Bush, of course, is depending on the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule that Florida Supreme Court decision that said the hand-counted votes must be included. Gore is contending that the vote to date in Florida is both "incomplete and inaccurate" and is asking the high court to order that uncounted votes in Miami-Dade and other counties be included in the count.

Should Bush somehow lose at the U.S. Supreme Court level, he could, and likely would, turn to the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature, and ultimately very possibly to the U.S. Congress, which is also GOP-controlled. So, what's now going to happen? It's anyone's guess, but tomorrow's arguments before the Supreme Court justices (seven of whom were appointed by Republican presidents) could affirm Bush's claim that the Florida high court erred and "rewrote the Florida election law" after the fact, violating Title 3, Section 3, of the U.S. code which requires that a state's law enacted "prior to" Election Day "shall be conclusive." The Supreme Court could also affirm Bush's other claim that the Florida high court violated Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which requires a state to choose its electors "in such a manner as the state legislature thereof may direct." That, of course, would approve the ultimate certification of Bush's original 930-vote lead from Florida's automatic machine recount plus the absentee ballots, and Bush would then be awarded the presidency.

However, it is also possible, though thought unlikely, that the high court could reject both Bush claims, thereby affirming the Florida court's action with a finality that would all but terminate

Bush's legal recourse, should Gore prevail in contesting the election. In short, either the U.S. Supreme Court becomes the ultimate authority or it allows the Florida high court to be the ultimate authority. At any rate, the Electoral College meets on December 18 to elect the new president, and federal law requires that Florida submit the names of electors for the candidate who wins its 25 electoral votes no later than December 12. Meanwhile, the dueling lawsuits for both the Democrats and the Republicans move on.



Our Man Friday

This column has said since Election Day, particularly since it was clear that the entire thing would eventually be decided in Florida that from the very first the "Florida fix" was in and

after all the court cases, all the political spinning by both sides, after the weeks-long delay in naming the winner, the fact is that brother **Jeb Bush** is still in control of the Florida political machinery (yes, even those county election officials who identify themselves as Democrats were appointed by Jeb Bush) and that somehow, Jeb would manage a win in his state for G.W. Bush.

Politics and people

After receiving a letter from the S.F. Democratic County Central Committee reminding members that as a chartered member club of the county committee, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club is prohibited from endorsing a Green Party member as a candidate for supervisor in the upcoming runoff election in the 5th dis-



Matt Gonzalez

trict - **Matt Gonzalez**, who recently switched to the Green Party is running against **Juanita Owens**, a duly elected member of the Demo County Committee - Milk Club president **Philip Babcock** told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he "isn't terribly worried" about any action the Demo Coun-



Juanita Owens

ty Central Committee might take against his club. "They [the county committee] have to do what they have to do and we have to do what we have to do," Babcock said.

And yes, a number of high-placed Democrats - locally and nationally - still appear to be more than a bit annoyed at our own Mayor **Willie Brown** for publicly throwing the towel in for Gore on the presidential election long before Gore and the Democratic Party were ready to do so.

Indeed, Judge **Robert W. Lee**, who led the three-member Broward County Canvassing Board and received national television exposure as one of the brighter guys in the entire Florida vote-counting mess, is an openly gay man. Lee, 40, of Fort Lauderdale, was appointed a county judge by Democratic Governor **Lawton Chiles** in 1997, making him the first openly gay judge in Broward County. Lee had actually been interviewed last year by representatives of Governor **Jeb Bush's** office for a promotion to the Broward Circuit Court, but did not get the job. While growing up in Jacksonville he was active with the Young Republicans, but as soon as he could vote he registered Democratic and there are some (particularly among Democrats) who feel that Lee is still a Republican at heart and is still angling for a promotion from the Bush administration. Though judges run for office as non-partisans in Florida, Lee, now a registered Democrat, has often voted with Republican members of the canvassing board. Politically, it appears that neither Republicans nor Democrats who know Lee trust him; first he voted against a hand recount requested by fellow Democrats in Broward County, then, just as surprisingly, he switched and voted for allowing the hand count, based, Lee claims, on an opinion handed down by the state attorney general, a Democrat. "I'm a pretty together person; I don't get caught up in this type of [political] stuff," the sometimes-popular judge told reporters.

The election on November 7 of Oakland City Councilmember **Nate Miley** to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors means there's an opening on the Oakland council that will be filled at a special election in April and among the leading contenders in that race will be **Brenda Crawford**, a respected African American lesbian who is the president of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

Overheard: The first openly gay member of the California state Senate, current Assemblywoman **Sheila Kuehl**, explaining why there are now four lesbians in the new Legislature and no openly gay men: "People are more threatened in many ways just by a gay man's presence."

Laura Schlessinger made an on-air pitch last week for companies to advertise on her TV and radio programs; another sign her show is tanking and that the pressure campaign against sponsors by gay activists is taking its toll. Schlessinger did warn those who might choose to advertise on her shows: "The bad guys are going to beat on you, [so] you have to have a spine to stand with me. And how was your week? ▽"

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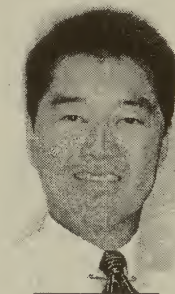
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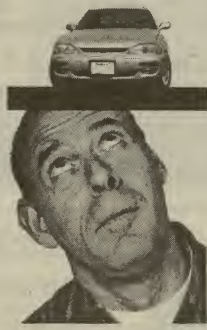
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Say their names

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Two years ago this week, I took on a difficult job.

At the time, I was hanging out in an online chat room for transgendered people, called The Gazebo. Word was coming in from one of the Boston-area members about the brutal murder of an African American transwoman named Rita Hester. She was stabbed multiple times in her apartment in Allston, Massachusetts.

That night, I compared the case to one that happened in the same general area to another African American transwoman just three years before, Channele Pickett. Both were transgendered women of color. Both were murdered in late November. And both died brutal deaths, with Pickett being strangled and beaten bloody, and Hester dying of multiple stab wounds.

Unfortunately, no one in that chat room had ever heard of Pickett.

Even in a community where history is largely forgotten, this surprised me. A number of Transsexual Menace actions were held when Pickett's killer, William Palmer, was on trial. Though the case never attained the media interest that the Brandon Teena case garnered, it is still one of the events that helped revitalize transgender activism in the last decade. Yet three years after the fact, it was forgotten – and as the famed George Santayana quote goes, “those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.”

So I chose to preserve the memory of those killed by anti-transgender hatred or prejudice, creating a Web site called Remembering Our Dead, located at www.gender.org/remember.

As I said when I started this, it is a difficult job. In the course of researching the project, I dug deep into historical archives such as those at the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California. The number of cases I uncovered went from 30 to over 200, covering a span of 30 years. Through the



James Green, left, and Dana Rivers at the “Day of Remembrance” Tuesday, in SF.

project I discovered that one person a month is reported murdered due to this sort of violence.

Some of the cases have touched me deeply, like those of Steven Wilson, a 9-year-old who liked to play with “girls toys.” Wilson was raped and murdered by a 15-year-old neighbor who wanted to teach “the fag” a lesson. That brought back the wounds of my own rape, when I was 8, by a 13-year-old neighbor boy. I’m sure he, too, was teaching me a lesson.

And yes, there are people on the site who I knew, like Tacy Ranta who introduced herself to me a couple weeks before a bullet took her life. And Robert Eads, a transman who died of uterine cancer, after being turned away by over 20 doctors, because they were worried about how their other patients would feel.

The project has had its high points. I’ve been honored to be a nominee for a GLAAD Media Award for the project, and to have been contacted by Fox Searchlight Pictures around the release of the film *Boys Don’t Cry*, in order to help promote both the film and the Web site.

In November 1999, on the one-year anniversary of Rita Hester’s murder, I asked members of the transgender community to consider having a candlelight vigil – a “day of remembrance” – to remember these victims, and to

draw attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence. After last year’s event, I asked that we do it again this year.

We’re actually ahead of the “one a month” curve this time around, with 18 cases having been reported since November 28, 1999. Eighteen people who are no longer with us, simply because they did not fit society’s concepts of “man” and “woman.”

People like a 3-day-old baby in Dallas, Texas, who was killed by his mother, first by feeding the child shards of glass, then (when that didn’t kill the child fast enough, one assumes) beating the baby’s head against the wall. Why? The child was intersexed, and had ambiguous genitalia.

Other cases this year include Alina Barrigan, strangled this January in San Jose, Vanesa-Lorena Ledesma, an activist in Argentina, who died in police custody in February, and Amanda Milan, who died in New York City in June. According to reports, cabbies who witnessed the killing applauded as Milan bled to death.

By the time you read this article, it will be all over for the year, as Tuesday was the second annual “Day of Remembrance,” honoring those we’ve lost since last November. Thirteen cities have taken part, from San Francisco to Tallahassee, from Houston to Minneapolis-St. Paul. Many transgender Web sites have also opted to black themselves out as a show of solidarity.

So maybe Web sites like “Remembering Our Dead,” and events like the “Day of Remembrance” will help build visibility, leading to a better understanding that transgender people sometimes pay very dearly for being who we are. Perhaps, as time goes by, paving the way for a shift in the way society treats those who are presenting in a “gender-variant” manner.

But I must admit being a little pessimistic. Whether it is 13 cities or 300, I know that there will still be killed simply because of the clothes they wear, or the way they act. Maybe it will be you – or me.

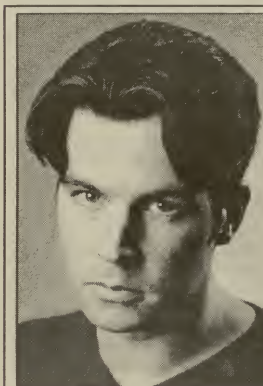
And I would rather not have my death cheered by witnesses, nor face any sort of death simply because someone doesn’t feel comfortable with the way I choose to present myself.

So remember these people, say their names, and honor their memory. Through this, we may avoid the words of George Santayana. ▼

Gwen Smith never thought she would be one of “those activists,” but fate had other plans. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com’s Transgender Gazebo, and at www.gwen-smith.com.

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COMMENTARY

A million gays for Bush

by Dale Carpenter

Gays are abandoning the orthodoxy of the gay civil rights establishment. Defying the near hysteria against George W. Bush generated by many gay political organizations and leaders, and despite a propaganda barrage for Al Gore in the gay media, more than a million gay voters backed Bush in the presidential election. Further, the number of gay Republican voters appears to be growing. What does this mean for gay rights?

First, consider the numbers. About 103.8 million Americans voted for a presidential candidate on November 7. According to a national exit poll, 4 percent of these voters, or almost 4.2 million, were willing to self-identify as gay. Of the self-identified gay voters, 70 percent said they voted for Gore and 25 percent said they voted for Bush.

That comes out to just over one million gay votes for Bush, enough to deliver Florida (which is under dispute) and New Hampshire. Even conceding Florida to Bush, a Gore win in New Hampshire would have been enough to elect him. So if Bush wins, it's plausible to say gay voters made the difference.

But even the one million total likely underestimates the actual gay vote for Bush. This is so for two reasons. First, the social stigma attached to homosexuality reduces the number of gays willing to "come out" to pollsters. It's likely that a disproportionate number of these uncounted closeted voters, because they are less connected to the attitudes of the gay civil rights establishment, support Republicans.

Second, even among openly gay voters, the social stigma attached to voting Republican reduces the number willing to admit they backed the politically-incorrect candidate. No one wants to be compared to a Jewish Nazi or a black Klansman, as gay Republicans have been. So a million gay votes for Bush is a floor, not a ceiling.

Further, the gay Republican vote is growing. In 1992, after Pat Buchanan declared a "culture war" against gays and others, the GOP got just 14 percent of the gay vote. In 1996, when Bob Dole requested the endorsement of the Log Cabin Republicans, the GOP got 23 percent of the gay vote. This year, when Bush actually met with gay Republicans, it stands at 25 percent.

The hand-wringing about this development has already begun. Columnist Michelangelo Signorile

asks, "Why are many gay people easily sucked in?" He suggests two explanations. One is that gay activists should have made the case for Gore "more forcefully." Yet it's hard to imagine how gay political groups could have pushed harder for Gore. Millions of dollars were spent warning gays that their civil rights, and their very lives, were in danger if Bush won. In fact, it appears there is an inverse relationship here: as the Republican Party tones down its anti-gay rhetoric, gay activists ratchet up their anti-GOP rhetoric.

Signorile also suggests gay activists should have made their case "without the condescending attitude that, as lackeys for Gore, they often possessed." That

would be welcome but it's not likely gay activists are capable of it. The very idea that gay voters have been "sucked in" by the sinister Republicans, as Signorile puts it, suggests gay activists think these voters are too stupid or too ignorant to appreciate their real interests.

Signorile's second explanation for the large gay Republican vote is that gays, unlike more reliably Democratic voters, "aren't disproportionately poor and marginalized." What a pity. If the preconditions for monolithic loyalty to the Democratic Party are poverty and marginalization, we can be forgiven for straying from the fold.

Here's a simpler explanation: A million gay voters walked into their polling places and decided that, on balance, Bush was the better choice.

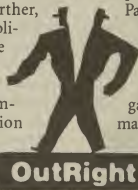
There are plausible and defensible reasons for that choice. Perhaps gay issues were peripheral to

these voters; they may have considered taxes and the future of Social Security more immediately relevant to their lives. Or perhaps many of them concluded that, while Gore was better on gay issues, he was unlikely actually to get anything done on them. Or perhaps on the issues on which Gore was said to be preferable—like employment discrimination protection and hate crimes laws—they disagree with the wisdom of the policy. Or perhaps they were so disgusted by the Clinton-Gore administration's two great gay-rights legacies—the anti-gay military exclusion and the Defense of Marriage Act—that they decided to punish the Democrats.

It's not that these gay Bush voters are stupid, it's that they dissent from the approved gay view of what's important in the world. It's not that they don't care about gay rights, it's that they define gay civil rights on their own terms. It's not that they're easily sucked in by deceptive Republicans, it's that they've been taken for granted by the Democrats. I know this is hard for gay activists in Washington, D.C. to believe, but not every gay person wakes up thinking life would be great if only Congress would pass a hate crimes law.

The Democrats are in no immediate danger of losing their gay majority. Only two minority groups—blacks (90 percent for Gore) and Jews (79 percent for Gore)—are more steadfast. By most accounts, a 70 percent endorsement is still a landslide.

But it's increasingly clear that at least a significant minority of the gay vote is up for grabs. That should make both Democrats and Republicans work harder for our support. Whatever your politics, it is a welcome development. ▼



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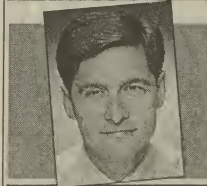
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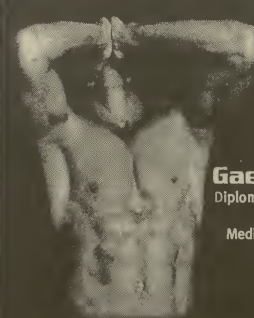
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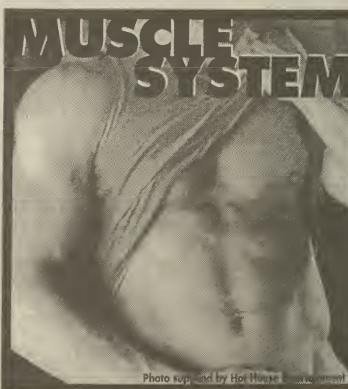
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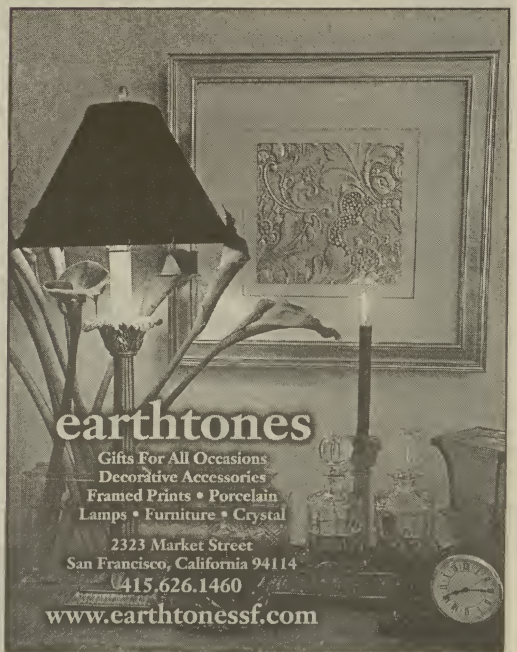
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BAY AREA REPORTER

World AIDS Day around the Bay

compiled by Terry Beswick

Every year since 1987, the first day of December has marked World AIDS Day, and communities around the globe organize a variety of events to mark the occasion.

But first, on the day before, the new **Interfaith AIDS Memorial Chapel** will be dedicated at Grace Cathedral, 1100 California at Taylor Street in San Francisco. Bishop William Swing will consecrate the altar, with representatives from a variety of faiths attending. Everyone is welcome at the 5:15 p.m. dedication today (Thursday, November 30). Call (415) 749-6310, or visit www.gracecathedral.org for more information.

The **National AIDS Memorial Grove** in Golden Gate Park will hold an observance on Friday, December 1, at 11:30 a.m. led by Janice Mirikitani, San Francisco Poet Laureate, and gay spiritual author Christian de la Huerta.

"Our theme this year is 'Communities Make A Difference,'" said Thom Weyand, executive director of the grove, the country's only nationally designated memorial for people who have died of AIDS. "We are emphasizing not only the many communities affected, but especially all those working together to make a difference."

The third annual Grove Award for HIV/AIDS Community Ser-



AIDS Grove honoree Hosea Turner

vice will be presented to Hosea Turner, transportation manager at Shanti for the past nine years, and a volunteer for nearly eight years prior to that.

Mirikitani and de la Huerta will be joined by other speakers, including the Reverend Ron Swisher of Oakland's Taylor United Methodist Church, Assemblywoman Carole Migden, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, Dr. Stephen E. Follansbee, of Kaiser Medical Center in San Francisco, and Ansley Shrigley, a senior at Menlo School.

mentary Therapy Centers at (707) 829-6892.

Creating a gigantic red ribbon, **6,000 red lights**, each representing a person living with AIDS in Alameda County, will light up Oakland's City Hall as part of that city's holiday kick-off celebration. Tony- and Grammy-award winning singer Melba Moore will be singing at the event that begins Friday at 5 p.m. Call East Bay Pride at (510) 663-3980 for more information.

Back in San Francisco, the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco is marking World AIDS Day with **"Keep Hope Alive: A Tribute to the Reverend Jim Mitulski."** The event at the Pan Pacific Hotel at 500 Post Street begins with a no-host bar reception at 6:30 p.m. and will also mark Mitulski's retirement from 15 years as pastor of MCC-SF.

In Mitulski's honor, the church has created the "Jim Mitulski HIV/AIDS Legacy Fund," and proceeds from Friday's benefit will support the fund for the church's HIV-related programming, staffing, and advocacy.

Tickets are \$125. For more information, call MCC-SF at (415) 863-4436.

"Men Make A Difference:

Every year since 1987, the first day of December has marked World AIDS Day, and communities around the globe organize a variety of events to mark the occasion.

For more information on the World AIDS Day ceremony and the National AIDS Memorial Grove, call (415) 750-8340 or visit the Web site at www.aidsmemorial.org.

Also in San Francisco, the 2000 **"Every Penny Counts Campaign"** culminates in Union Square on Friday, December 1. The annual penny drive is a grassroots campaign that raises money and awareness for client services of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Local students have spent most of November collecting pennies. The penny drive, sponsored this year by Wells Fargo Bank, motivates students from nearly 100 Bay Area schools to gather at least 5 million pennies by World AIDS Day. Last year, over \$80,000 was raised.

The penny-counting party in Union Square begins at 10 a.m. with local school bands and entertainment by deejays from 94.9 FM.

Participating groups are asked to bring their penny collections to Union Square at the corner of Post and Powell and add their coins to the large penny jar by the holiday tree.

For more information, call (415) 558-6985 or e-mail Pennies@aidsemeregencyfund.org.

But if you're in Sonoma County, **"Gathering the Pennies for AIDS"** wants your pennies, too, and will have collection points set up on Friday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at 12 locations throughout the county. For locations or other information, call one of the two beneficiaries, Sunburst Projects at (707) 588-9477, or the Comple-

Honoring Our Future By Learning From Our Past is the title of a three-hour presentation being staged by the UCSF AIDS Research Institute's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

The event begins at 2 p.m. at Cole Hall on the UCSF Campus on Parnassus Avenue. Peter Teague, executive director of the Horizons Foundation, is scheduled to give the keynote address, followed by a talk from UCSF researcher Joseph A. Catania entitled "Is it over yet? The HIV 'epidemic' among MSM and heterosexual men in the U.S."

The Reverend Yvette Flunder will speak about "Countering the Heterophobia in the Black Community," followed by "In Our Own Voices: A Panel of African American Men Speak Out About HIV," facilitated by Pilgrim S. Spikes of CAPS, and featuring Marvin White of the Stop AIDS Project, Gavin Morrow-Hall of the Black Coalition on AIDS, and Jamal Bey of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

CAPS' Cynthia Gomez will discuss "The Naked Truth: Sex, Seropositives and HIV Prevention," followed by a presentation on "Protecting the Future: Model Programs for Young Gay and Bi Men."

Rounding out the program will be "Where Do We Go From Here? The Department of Public Health's 11-Point Program," featuring San Francisco Department of Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, who will be interviewed by Mike Shriver, Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS liaison. ▼

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NATIONAL NEWS

World AIDS Day 2000

by Bob Roehr

All Men-Make a Difference!" is the slogan of World AIDS Day activities this Friday, December 1. The optimistic spin "is to encourage all men to increase their awareness of the risks of HIV/AIDS" and their responsibility to help stem the spread of the epidemic.

"We all know this disease is spread by men," William Malekgapuru Makgoba said last July at the International AIDS conference in Durban. He is president of the Medical Research Council of South Africa, a counterpart to the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The low social and legal status of women contributes to the spread of HIV in much of the world. Makgoba said that attention should be paid to "disempowering" the male in this process. "We need to focus upon men, their biology and their sociology."

The World Health Organization released a new report estimating that 5.3 million people in the world became infected with HIV during the last year. It offered a glimmer of hope that for the first time the number of new infections seems to have stabilized in sub-Saharan Africa.

But even with that stability, the amount of diseases and death of the slowly developing infection will continue to grow for years to come. An estimated 3 million people will die of HIV this year.

The situation remains stable in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to estimate that at least 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year, and nearly a million live with the infection.

While gay men continue to be the population hardest hit, the epidemic is growing most rapidly among people of color and women. Half of all new infections are in people 25 and younger. Those who have access to therapy and adhere to the regimen generally do well in controlling the infection.

Monkeys on STI

Structured treatment interruption is one of the more interesting developments in research on therapy. It involves periodic drug "holidays" to reduce exposure to drug toxicity and/or to try to stimulate the immune system to better fight HIV. Most knowledge has come from a series of anecdotes of individual patients.

Animal studies allow researchers to control timing and conditions of infection and treatment in ways that are not possible with humans. The first animal study of the STI concept was published in the November 24 issue of the journal *Science* by Franco Lori, head of the Research Institute for Genetic and Human Therapy (RIGHT) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and in Italy. He also presented data on the study at an invitation-only workshop on HIV acute infection sponsored by NIH in October.

Lori and his colleagues infected rhesus macaques with the monkey version of HIV. One group was given no therapy, a second was given continuous therapy, while a third was put through cycles of three weeks on therapy and three weeks off.

The six monkeys that began therapy soon after seroconversion, six weeks after exposure to the virus, all showed a viral rebound



William Malekgapuru Makgoba

at the first interruption, three did at the second interruption, one at the third, but none of their virus rebound on the fourth interruption. The pattern of their viral loads showed a geometric decline with each interruption.

Four monkeys that were not put on therapy until a year after they were infected showed a rebound on the first interruption and somewhat lesser rebounds on subsequent interruptions. But there was no pattern or progression in their responses. It appears that their immune systems were learning how to better control the virus with each exposure to significant amounts of HIV.

Toxicities clearly were different. Five of the six control animals continuously maintained on therapy developed glucose imbalances and had to be given insulin. Glucose imbalances seem to con-

tribute to lipodystrophy or disfiguring redistribution of body fat. Lori said the glucose levels of animals in the STI arms "were practically normal."

What does it mean?

There are several implications from this study that seem to reinforce what has been seen in individual patients. One is that beginning therapy very soon after infection with HIV may be the best way to generate the strongest immune response to the virus. Some patients who do not start therapy until late after infection may gain some limited enhanced immune response with STI, though that is much less clear.

Another implication is that cycling on and off therapy seems to control the virus as well as continuously maintaining that therapy. However, the results are very short term and may not hold up over time.

Furthermore, it is not yet clear what are the safest ways to discontinue particular drugs with different half-lives in the body so as to minimize risk of developing resistance to those drugs. Nor is it clear how long a person should remain off drug, what criteria should be used to restart therapy, or how low the virus should be suppressed and for how long before beginning another interruption.

While the idea of STI is encouraging, it remains very much an experimental concept. It should only be tried under a doctor's supervision, with careful monitoring of viral load and CD4 counts. ▼

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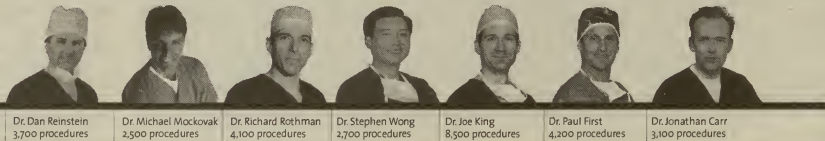
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South Africa: Another step on the road to equality

by S. Predrag

The South African parliament has just passed a Revenue Laws Amendment bill which redefines the word "spouse" as being inclusive of "a permanent same-sex life relationship." This means that same-sex life partners will now also be exempt from the Estate Duties Tax that applies to spouses of heterosexual people.

According to Carrie Shelper, director of the National Lesbian and Gay Equality Project in South Africa, "This new act impacts directly on the struggle by all lesbian and gay people for the full legal recognition of our relationships."

This development, she noted, comes at a time when the South African Law Commission is reviewing the provisions of the Marriage Act as it applies to same-sex partners.

"After the passing of the Equality Act earlier this year, great expectations have been created among lesbian and gay people in terms of the recognition of their right to equality in all aspects of life," Shelper added. She expressed the hope that this would be an in-

dication of future government policy in this regard.

However, there are still some inequalities in government policy. For example, same-sex partners of deceased state employees do not have access to widows' pensions.

It is believed that some 40 percent of all lesbian and gay people in South Africa are employed directly or indirectly by the state. Although it is illegal for private pension funds to deny same-sex partners widows' pensions, state pensions are ruled by a different act.

Pointing out that the State Pensions Fund still refuses to pay out widows' pensions to surviving partners, equal rights project coordinator at the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, Evert Knoesen, said that, "We believe that this is immoral, unconstitutional, and unlawful."

After all, he noted that any unfair discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is unlawful under the South African Constitution. Discrimination still exists in various sectors, however, including the banking sector.

A South African newspaper, *The Q*, used the example of two lesbians in a committed five-year relationship, who wanted to buy

the house of their dreams. Although together they earn enough to buy the house they wanted, a bank official told them that, regrettably, in such cases the bank cannot use their joint income in their calculations and that they do not qualify for a 100 percent bond. The reason being, of course, that the financial sector does not treat credit applications from same-sex partners the same as those from heterosexual married partners who enjoy more benefits.

Still, South Africa has one of the most progressive constitutions in the world when it comes to gay and lesbian rights. It is also the only country in Africa to declare that consensual sexual intercourse between members of the same sex is not unlawful, and that people should not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientations.

However, even in this country where gays and lesbians are protected by the constitution, the battle for complete equality is far from over. The good news is that South African homosexuals have scored some important victories recently and are on their way to total equality. ▼

XY magazine

◀ page 1

his brother were asked by Underhill to pose for a photo session in 1993 after Underhill saw their pictures in a high school yearbook. Batres said Underhill told them they were model material and he could help them put together a portfolio. Batres said he was surprised when pictures of him and his brother embracing wound up on XY's front cover three years later. Batres said he didn't decide to sue until he and his brother appeared in the cover again this year.

The twins' attorney, Thomas Byrne, told the B.A.R. that when Underhill heard that the twins

were considering legal action Underhill tried unsuccessfully to get them to settle for \$1,000 each. Byrne said the total dollar amount on his lawsuit is something that still has to be worked out.

Byrne said the twins were never paid for the photo shoot with Underhill but two years after the pictures were taken, around Christmas time, they were sent \$250 each from him. The twins said that they were simply sent the money without any explanation.

"It came with nothing, it was just a personal check," Batres said. "I didn't know what it was for, I thought maybe Christmas but I had no idea."

Byrne said XY magazine implied the twins were gay by a

headline that said "Young and Gay" immediately under the boys' picture in the inside of the magazine's first issue in 1996. The boys also appeared on the cover of that issue. The pictures showed the teens fully clothed, wearing rugby shirts, and embracing.

"If you're not gay and you're portrayed as gay you do have a claim for damages under California law," said Byrne. "It's a misrepresentation of who you are."

Batres said he and his brother were teased after the pictures were published and people even went to his mother asking if they were gay. Batres reiterated that he's not homophobic and that he's suing primarily because he and his brother never gave Underhill permission to publish the pictures anywhere.

Batres said the photo shoot with Underhill is the only modeling he and his brother have done. He's currently working his way through college as a waiter and his brother works as a carpenter.

Former Congressman Doug Bosco and his wife, retired Judge Gayle Guynup, were mentioned in the lawsuit because, according to the twins, the photo shoot took place on Bosco's ranch in Occidental. Byrne said the boys' mother felt more comfortable about the photo shoot because it was being conducted on Bosco's property. Batres said Underhill told him Bosco was his landlord. Bosco told the B.A.R. that he doesn't remember meeting the twins and he saw the original prints of the photo session and they were not taken on his property which he has since sold. Bosco said Underhill told him the photos were shot in Railroad Square in downtown Santa Rosa.

"We were on Doug Bosco's property, this Railroad Square thing is bullshit," said Batres. "He's [Bosco] just trying to distance next page ▶

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Florida election wrangling continues

by Bob Roehr

George W. Bush moved another laborious step closer to the White House on November 26 when Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified him the winner of Florida's presidential election and that state's 25 electoral votes. That night Bush declared it was time to move on and begin the transition to the new administration. Nominations must be made for Cabinet offices and the FBI must initiate the process of gaining security clearances.

But Al Gore continues to maintain that "if every vote is counted" he would be president. Pundit Chris Matthews is a fan of the vice president. Speaking on the November 27 Charlie Rose program on PBS, he compared Gore to a cartoon character who has run off the edge of a cliff and is running on air, but eventually will notice that fact and drop like a rock.

Gore's attorneys sued in state court in Tallahassee on November

28 for a continued hand count of ballots in selective counties. Judge N. Sanders Sauls ordered that the ballots in question be brought from the three south Florida counties in question to Tallahassee for safekeeping. The procedure was essentially to preserve all options and it is unclear if anything will be done with the ballots. Sauls also set a hearing for Saturday, one day after the U.S. Supreme Court hears another set of arguments on the case.

"Vice President Gore is asking Florida's courts to issue a set of orders whose likely effect would be to make him the winner of a presidential election he will otherwise have lost. It would be an extraordinary intervention on the part of the Florida justices," said the *Washington Post* in a November 28 editorial.

The newspaper had supported Gore throughout the campaign and post-election turmoil, but it concluded, "The court set a deadline; Mr. Gore wasn't able to win within it; and the court, in our judgment, needs to be awfully careful about granting him the

further relief he now seeks."

Polling data is showing that the public is growing uneasy with the continued bickering. An ABC News-Washington Post poll released on November 27 found that 60 percent of Americans believe it is time for Gore to concede. That includes about 25 percent of the people who voted for the vice president.

Almost 350,000 people had chosen to take a poll on America Online and nearly 80 percent of them agreed that the Florida ballots had been counted enough. While those responding are not necessarily representative of the American public as a whole, the number of people involved is vastly larger than the weighted sample of 400-800 generally used in overnight tracking polls.

Also on November 28, Bush's attorneys submitted briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court asking it to overturn the earlier Florida court decision that extended recounting the ballots, and not allow any further recounts. Gore's attorneys argued that this is not a matter for the federal courts to decide. Additional paperwork will be filed on Thursday and both sides will present oral arguments before that Court on the next day, December 1.

Bush's lawyers asked the court to bring "legal finality" to the election process. It is unclear if the justices will do that. ▼

XY magazine

◀ previous page

himself from Steven Underhill."

Bosco said he was never Underhill's landlord but he did represent him in a lawsuit against an unauthorized use of one of Underhill's photographs by a 1-900 gay phone service. The suit was originally brought against Underhill by the model whose picture appeared in the ad. Underhill in turn sued the 1-900 company. The company agreed to settle the suit by paying \$50,000 to Underhill's model and "a little less" than that amount to Underhill, according to Bosco.

Neither Bosco nor his wife are defendants in the current suit. Bosco told the *B.A.R.* he got a letter of apology from Byrne for dragging his name into the case.

Underhill told the *B.A.R.* that he's not ready to talk about the case.

"I was just served [with the lawsuit]," he said. "It's so frivolous, I don't want to say anything."

XY Publisher Peter Ian Cummings didn't return the *B.A.R.*'s calls.

Byrne told the *B.A.R.* that he spoke with Cummings briefly over

the phone.

"He told me he didn't have any assets and if I were to sue him I wouldn't get anything because he doesn't have anything," said Byrne. The attorney added that he learned that XY magazine has an annual income of \$1 million but didn't know how much of that went to overhead. Byrne said Cummings would not disclose to him whether he had any insurance.

"That's why we had to file a lawsuit because one of the things we can obtain in discovery is whether or not they have insurance," said Byrne.

XY's financial health of late appears to have gone from serious to critical. It missed several publishing deadlines this year. The San Francisco-based magazine also had its telephones cut off and now has to rely on cell phones.

Although XY is distributed nationally and internationally and has thousands of devout readers, it has had a long-standing problem attracting national advertisers who may be scared off by its contents. XY features young male fashion and beefcake photos along with articles targeted toward gay and questioning teenage boys and young men. ▼

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AIDS in America: Year 20 and still killing

by Jeff Getty, Survive
AIDS Writers Pool

Recently, I had several conversations with television producers from CBS' *60 Minutes* and A&E's *Investigative Reports* programs. Both networks are planning major AIDS stories to be aired in coming weeks. Seems that both news teams have come to the same conclusion: "You thought AIDS was over? Well think again, it's not." Both networks based their stories on three predominant themes that producers identified in their research: First, most people in America think that AIDS has been managed or cured. Second, many people in America no longer consider AIDS to be a personal threat. Third, AIDS drugs are extending life but in the long run, may ultimately contribute to the patient's demise.

In the past year, two extremely well-informed and prominent AIDS activists died from AIDS complications. Both of these people had the very best healthcare and access to information (actually they both wrote about AIDS treatments) and both had been long-term veterans of AIDS survival. Yet they still died. One cannot expect to survive AIDS by one's wits. Although using one's wits to stay alive is an excellent

tactic, we are not yet far enough along in development of effective low-toxicity treatments to think that AIDS is managed or even survivable. It is neither.

"In the past year more and more information has surfaced about the long-term toxicities of continuous HIV anti-viral therapy. The news was not good. HIV drugs are implicated in lipodystrophy,

heart problems, bone loss (hip replacement), inter-cellular malfunctions called mitochondriosis, lactic acidosis, and liver and kidney dysfunction and failure. Add in the various op-

portunistic infections and the drug toxicities required to treat them and you find many surviving AIDS patients have become antiviral and antibiotic multi-drug resistant. These AIDS patients (myself included) require stronger and more toxic remedies month after month and year after year. Ultimately one eventually dies, either from an infection or complications from treatments.

Nobody these days bothers to say how long an HIV infected patient can expect to live — or how well. Since each person's lifestyle, healthcare, ability not to become depressed, and genetic immune response varies, there is no way to

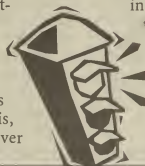
predict how well or long one can expect to stay alive with current anti-HIV treatments. To be sure, the old five- or 10-year death sentence has been reprieved for many on treatment. But how long before their drug toxicities gang up and kill, or force them off treatments? When PWAs started experimenting with going off drugs in order to avoid toxic build-

up, healthcare experts coined the phrase "drug holidays" to describe such deviant behavior. Pressure to remain compliant was so severe that when patients stopped taking the drugs (because they were often being hurt by them),

doctors were angry and patients were accused of laziness or lack of fortitude. Only later did activists and doctors coin a new phrase "strategic drug interruption," the stopping of HIV drugs in order to function or survive. It soon became all the rage. But stay off the drugs too long and many may face death from HIV ravaging their immune system.

Since 1996 there has been little or no true advancements in the drug arsenals. We still have the same three drug families; nucleosides, non-nucleosides and protease inhibitors. HIV resistance to any one drug in a family usually

next page ►



Survive AIDS

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Gay reservist's appeal denied; Steve May to appear in San Francisco



Arizona Representative
Steve May

by Wayne Friday

An Army general rejected Arizona state Representative Steve May's appeal of the Army's decision to dismiss him from his reserve unit after he said in a legislative debate that he is gay. General John Scott, the commanding general of May's unit, backed a military panel's recommendation that May, a lieutenant in the Army Reserves, be honorably discharged for violating the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

May, a Republican, who was easily re-elected this month to his Phoenix area seat, had been open about his homosexuality since his first campaign for elected office in 1996. May acknowledged his homosexuality during a legislative debate in February 1999. May was

an honorably discharged civilian at the time, but was called back to the Army a few weeks later, during the Kosovo crisis.

May will appear at a reception and dinner Saturday, December 9, in San Francisco at the Commonwealth Club, and will give an address on the DADT policy. "Is the gay ban based on prejudice or military necessity?" is expected to be the topic of May's address. The event is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the Commonwealth Club of California. Tickets to the dinner may be obtained by calling (415) 597-6705 or (415) 597-6706. It is advised that reservations be made by December 4. The event takes place at 595 Market Street, from 5-8 p.m., and is part of a day-long conference on DADT. ▼

Survive AIDS

◀ previous page

means resistance to the rest of the related medications. AIDS patients know this sad fact all too well. A new drug, T20 is in the pipeline. It is an adhesion inhibitor and appears to be non-toxic for now. It will barely make it to market. But the overall groundswell of innovative and active searching for new pharmaceutical targets for HIV by major drug companies has dried up. Instead of cutting edge research, they simply spend their huge profits telling us how wonderful the existing drugs are or reformulating the drugs in new ways to make them more convenient. Don't get me wrong, I'm not displeased that we have been able to extend life, I'm displeased that we have lost the sense of urgency and America thinks that AIDS is over. It is not. It just takes somewhat longer to die than it used to. Current AIDS drugs are inadequate and outdated.

And healthcare for AIDS is slipping as well. When a patient and their doctor suspect cancer, the patient is referred to an oncologist who carefully operates and performs a biopsy to determine what kind of cancer it is and which drugs will be effective. The patient then goes onto various extremely regulated drug treatments or chemotherapy with rigorous blood monitoring and close observation. After a given drug or treatment cycle, the cancer specialist re-evaluates and determines the next course of action

along with the patient and his or her family. This is not the case with equally fatal AIDS. You go into any old doctor's office, see your HMO-mandated doctor (most likely a family or general practitioner) for maybe 15 minutes, and walk out with a handful of drug prescriptions and an order for lab work. Sort of like getting chemo in the lobby of a fast food restaurant.

What kind of virus do you have? Who knows? Is it already drug resistant and to which drugs? Your insurance will only pay for this kind of information once in a blue moon. Does your immune system have a natural ability to fight your type of virus? Again, who knows? One cannot readily have tests run to answer that unless they are being studied by the National Institutes of Health. Are my drugs working? Maybe, but we can't always tell for sure, until you lose a big chunk of your immune system. Are my drugs trying to kill me? That depends; how are you feeling today? Is that liver pain, gas, or mitochondrial dysfunction? You need more information but it is not available. Sorry your 15 minutes are up.

And so it goes. Eventually you learn the best emergency rooms to visit in your area and start shopping for a viatical company to buy your life insurance.

What are the drug companies doing to help, one wonders? Open any gay magazine and see the major drug company ads depicting sexy people living, thriving, partying, and having sex with AIDS. They climb mountains

(without nearby toilets) and sail across oceans while popping handfuls of happy AIDS pills. Surely AIDS is no longer a bad disease. And check out those young handsome "come love me" AIDS drug models. If I take the drugs will I have sex too? Of course you will, unless you become disfigured by lipodystrophy or find yourself on dialysis. You can always date in between IV therapy and emergency room visits. Pardon the sarcasm but the point is this: The image presented in the media depicting AIDS patients is a lie invented to sell AIDS drugs. Living with HIV sucks. It starts out sort of okay but it goes downhill much too quickly.

Which leads to the final insult: Denial. Because people think AIDS is over or managed, they are probably not having enough safe sex and more people are going to get infected. Add to this the cultists who claim there is no such disease, and the sexy AIDS drug magazine models and we have what is just now coming into view - TV news documentaries which announce: "You thought AIDS was over, but it's not, and it's getting worse."

So happy World AIDS Day. The world does not need AIDS, yet it spreads out of control. Having AIDS is no picnic, and it is as far as I can see, still fatal. If you don't have HIV, play safe and don't take chances. If you do have HIV or AIDS perhaps it's time to get involved. It does not appear that the government or the drug companies are in any hurry to cure this disease. ▼

Medical pot

◀ page 1

persons with serious or fatal illnesses," and that the federal government had "offered no evidence to rebut evidence that cannabis is the only effective treatment for a large group of seriously ill individuals."

This past July, Breyer reversed himself and allowed the OCBC to provide cannabis to patients once again. The Clinton administration appealed the lower court ruling, arguing that the distribution of

medical marijuana "threatens the government's ability to enforce the federal drug laws." This past August, the Supreme Court ruled 7-1 that the Oakland club could not distribute medicinal cannabis while the case was under appeal. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, the brother of Charles Breyer, recused himself from the case.

According to OCBC lawyer Annette Carnegie, the federal Controlled Substances Act does not prohibit the provision of marijuana for medical purposes. She said that choices about the use of

medicinal cannabis "are best made by physicians and not by the government."

The OCBC argument is based on California's Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative passed by the state's voters in November 1996. Citizen initiatives in favor of medicinal cannabis have since passed in seven other states and the District of Columbia, including Colorado and Nevada, which passed such propositions earlier this month. Hawaii has the only medicinal marijuana law put into effect by a state legislature. ▼



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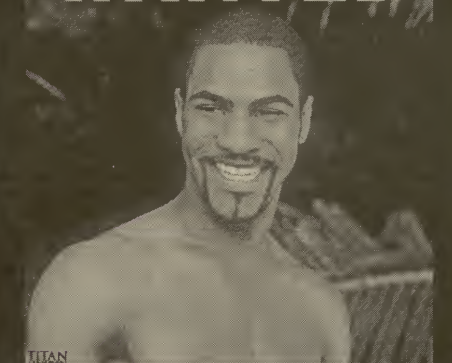
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Shoosh

by Jim Provenzano

Skiing is one of those sports we Californians can get downright spoiled about, what with all those opportunities for nearby fun in the nearest skiing and smoking lounge, Nevada. Last weekend was the traditional starting day for the season, with lots of folks enjoying slope action over the "Celebrate U.S. Imperialism via Gluttony" holiday. If you need to burn off some of those stuffing-induced pounds, why not shoosh 'em away?

SAGA North is the Bay Area's 200-member strong GLBT ski and snowboarding group. If you missed their recent shindig, there's still time to join up. Plus, they're having a member holiday party December 9.

One of the folks you might meet is Joe Trummer, who's been a SAGA member for about a year and a half. He's mostly taken weekend trips to Northstar and Heavenly, as well as gay and lesbian weekend at Kirkwood Resort, held in March.

"My father's from Austria, so I've skied since I was a kid," said the Michigan native who played in that area's "local little bumps, which were more like landfills they threw snow over."

Even in high school Trummer was in the ski club, a fan of Olympian skiing, and its more



Sports Complex



SAGA North members enjoy the winter flurries.

gregarious stunt-filled events.

While living in New York City for nine years, Trummer got to enjoy the "icier and colder" runs at Lake Placid and up in Vermont.

The 39-year-old says he loves skiing out here. "The weather's warmer, so it's a more pleasant experience. The snow's better, elevation's higher, runs are longer, plus there's a real variety of places to go."

When he joined SAGA, Trummer was just trying to find people to ski with, but most of his ski pals live down the Peninsula. "I saw the SAGA booth at the Castro Street Fair and signed up; it was a nice way to catch a ride, be around other gay people, and it was nice to find a family of people here that likes skiing."

As visions of Sonja Heine spy movies dance through one's head, Trummer is asked if being Austrian makes him innately better at the sport.

"As long as my knees hold out." If you're not up for actually skiing, but want to meet other slope-aholics, SAGA members and their guests are invited to the group's festive holiday party to celebrate the beginning of the snow season. This year they will have cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Palio D'asti Restaurant in downtown San Francisco, Saturday, December 9, from 6-8 p.m. Advance registration is required.

SAGA's next event, a Northstar day trip on December 16, is high on Trummer's to-do list. "It's got some of the best man-made snow."

Like many, SAGAs have found that e-groups are a great resource for the team to keep up and get together for short term treks. A big event for GLBT snow birds is Aspen Gay Ski Week, held January 20-27 in 2001.

With members representing a wide range of skiing and snowboarding abilities, SAGA welcomes and encourages first time skiers to join us and share the fun and thrills.

Says team organizer Randy Soo-Hoo, "Becoming a SAGA North member means one can join in all the year-round fun—whether it be for fun on the slopes this winter or fun in the sun next summer."

Out-of-state ski trips for 2000-2001 include Aspen Gay Ski Week, Banff/Lake Louise, Canada, Snowbird/Snowbasin in Utah as well as five weekend Lake Tahoe trips and five one-day Lake Tahoe trips by bus. Newbies take note: SAGA offers a learn-to-ski/snowboard program with many of its Lake Tahoe trips. The group rates that SAGA obtains on accommodations and lift tickets make it all economical.

For more membership and trip information, call (415) 995-2772 or visit www.saganorth.com, where you can find links to other ski groups, sports groups, and info on cabin shares in Truckee and other ski areas. You can join their e-mail message list at SAGANorth@Egroups.com. ▼

For links to GLBT sports groups worldwide, visit <http://sportscomplex.org> and click on the pic of Susan Strasburg in scuba gear. Really!

Team SF meet this Sat.

by Jim Provenzano

The Team San Francisco general membership meeting will be held this Saturday, December 2, but not at the usual space.

Meet at the gymnasium at 151 Oak Street (between Gough and Franklin). The Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood in the Castro District is being remodeled.

The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. The agenda includes regular committee reports as well as a report on the Federation of Gay Games' annual meeting which was recently held in Sydney, Australia, to coincide with the Olympics. Some lucky FOGG folks got to enjoy that event live, with no tape delay. Maybe they'll have pictures to share, as well as reports.

The federation members toured the venues where Sydney's GLBT jocks will host Gay Games VI in November 2002. Many of these venues were inaugurated for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Another important agenda item is the election of the Team San Francisco board members for 2001. "Next year will be an important year as the member athletic clubs begin training in earnest for the Games in Sydney," said Anne Ludwig, Team SF's treasurer. "The groundwork has been set with the selection of the new logo, the team colors, and the uniform style."

Ludwig encouraged adept sports reps to volunteer to serve on the 10-member board, which includes room for representatives of many sports clubs. "It can be a very rewarding experience," she said. ▼

Beat goes on next Saturday at LIFEBeat dance benefit

by Ed Walsh

LIFEbeat, the Music Industry Fights AIDS, is teaming up with Club Universe and the King Street Garage next Saturday, December 9, for the organization's first in a series of Club AID parties. To honor the daylong and nightlong event, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown has officially proclaimed December 9 "LIFEbeat Day."

The party gets started with "Garage Aid," an all-day marathon of music from noon until 6 p.m. at the King Street Garage at 174 King Street, across from the Pacific Bell Park. Garage Aid will feature local rock bands who have donated their services. Confirmed bands include Testament, Cross Tops, Mac Truck, Bottles & Skulls, BarSeekers, and The Idiots. Admission is \$10 and includes all the beer you can drink and a barbecue feast or \$5 with no food or beer.

A cocktail party gets under way at Club Universe, just on the other side of the King Street Garage, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. It will include a silent auction with personal items donated from Russell Simmons, Puffy, Mariah, Jennifer Lopez, and more. The party features performances by the R&B/jazz performer Ledisi and the jazz and gospel-style artist Jeanie Tracy. It includes a hosted bar and food. Tickets are \$50. All the proceeds from the auction and

door go directly to LIFEbeat.

The party continues at Club Universe from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. with performances from Razor & Guido and One Phat Deeva, aka Lisa Millet, singing her hit club record "Bad Habit." The scheduled deejay is David Harness. Admission is \$15.

LIFEbeat is a national non-profit youth HIV prevention organization. Founded in 1992, LIFEbeat mobilizes the talents of the music industry to raise funds and awareness to fight AIDS. LIFEbeat provides grants to community-based HIV/AIDS service organizations. LIFEbeat also provides live musical performances to people living with AIDS in health care facilities through its Hearts & Voices program. LIFEbeat was co-founded by music industry manager and producer Bob Caviano who died of AIDS just five months after LIFEbeat's inauguration.

Radio station Z-95.7 will be airing LIFEbeat's HIV prevention public service announcements by such artist as Britney Spears, LL Cool J and NSYNC. Sponsors of the San Francisco LIFEbeat event include Pacific Bell, Miller Beer, Stolichnaya Vodka, the Palomar Hotel, San Rio's Hello Kitty, Seagrams and Revolution magazine. But no doubt Club AID San Francisco's most valuable sponsor is the 177 Townsend nightclub, which is donating its space to the 19-hour event. ▼



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PRC

◀ page 2

plumbing, and food preparation to Internet design, information technology, computer skills, and of course self employment, GED completion, and higher education.

It is the day of the year that Positive Resource Center's Mark Misrok looks forward to the most. "I love this event," Misrok told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Coming here for one hour will give people a year's worth of information."

Misrok, PRC's employment services program coordinator, said the event is perfect for those who want to get back to work as well as for those who know they will need a change of careers in order to remain healthy. One thing Misrok

wants to emphasize is that one need not be unemployed to qualify for the Department of Rehabilitation's financial assistance for job training, a program that is underused by people with HIV/AIDS. Misrok also says that many PWAs should not plunge directly into a full-time job, but take time with the transition and explore new skills, "to give something you love a trial opportunity without the risk of an employment situation." Again, Wednesday's event is the place to be when considering all of these routes.

PRC's Training and Education Fair is at the organization's headquarters at 973 Market Street, between 5th and 6th streets, on the sixth floor. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. For more information, call (415) 777-0333. ▼

District 3

◀ page 3

lionaire businessman, "it's all about getting Willie Brown. We the candidates are the unwitting pawns of these men that are going after each other."

"This race is not about the mayor," Peskin asserted. "The question before the voters is, 'Are we going to have an independent

legislative body?"

"If I win or if I lose this election, I want our community not to be divided," said Peskin. "I think the supervisor from this district needs to not divide, but unite the people."

"Basically our positions on pretty much everything are the same," said Peskin, who supports gay marriage. "The only thing I have to say to the B.A.R. readership is that I am gay friendly." ▼

COLAGE

◀ page 5

uality, and family issues.

"It feels like a validation of the whole community of kids with queer families," said Park-Rogers. "This award is for all of them."

"This goes out to my mom and dad, too."

Also receiving a Stonewall Award this year is another 29-year-old, Javid Syed of New York. Syed, a native of Bombay, India, is a technical assistance and policy specialist at APICHA, the Asian Pacific Is-

lands Coalition on HIV/AIDS.

"These inspiring young people were not even born when the Stonewall rebellion occurred in 1969," said Allen A. Schuh, president of the Anderson Prize Foundation, who announced the winners on November 20. "They represent all the unsung heroes of the gay rights movement."

The late Paul A. Anderson of Chicago established the foundation in 1991, shortly before his death of AIDS-related illness. Schuh, an attorney in Chicago, was Anderson's companion for 13 years. ▼

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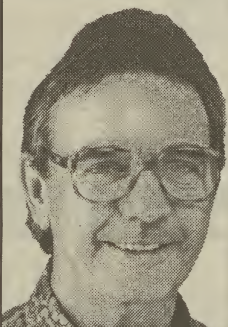
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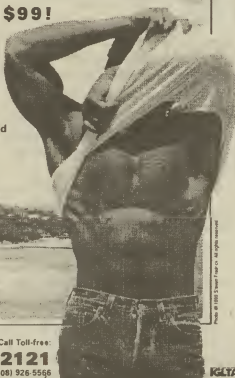
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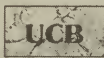


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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 241173

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Profit Recovery Partners. Located at: 961 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/02/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: Michael S. Gargan.

NOVEMBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244336

The following person(s) are doing business as: Phantom, 516 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Allam N. Bitak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/00.

NOV 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244649

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vico's Imports, 1598 Carroll Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vico Piccinini. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/03/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/00.

NOV 9, 16, 23, 30, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244690

The following person(s) are doing business as: Orient Rugs And Carpets Of The East, 33 Pond Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory Scott Halbert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/06/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244606

The following person(s) are doing business as: Patterson and McCombs, 12 Geary Street, suite 201-2, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nancy McCombs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/10/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244770

The following person(s) are doing business as: Impact Multimedia Publishing, 860 Bush Street #301, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wilfred J. Ortiz, II. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/09/00.

NOV. 16, 23, 30, DEC. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244110

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mack, 1285 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kenneth E. Neal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/11/00.

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244845

The following person(s) are doing business as: Integument Rejuvenation Center, 2326 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Sanford Schnoll. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 11/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/00.

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0226018-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Mack. Located at: 315-319 10th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/05/00.

This business was conducted by: a individual: Darrell

NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0225458-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Every Day's A Holiday. Located at: 1895 Divisadero St. S.F., CA 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 9/9/98.

This business was conducted by: a General Partnership Barbara Bentley, Byron Bentley, John B. McRae signed Byron Bentley Partner.

NOV. 30 DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

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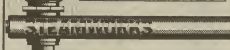
Est furniture shop opening location in SF seeks seasoned retail exec for store mgr pos. Significant retail exp. preferably in furniture or home furnishings. Candidate should be able to work independently and motivate retail team. Fax res. and salary exp. to 415-355-1346.

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NOV. 30, DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

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NOV. 30, DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 316816

In the Matter of the Application of Raphael Alexander Quintero. For Change of Name. The application of Raphael Alexander Quintero for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Raphael Alexander Quintero has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Raphael Alexander Q. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of January 2000 at 9:00AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
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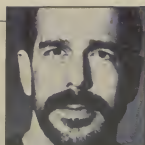
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The importance of being gay
Director Steven Cosson stages Oscar
Wilde's 'Earnest' with a gay aesthetic.

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Operatic dish session
Talking Verdi et al. with
author William Berger.

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Tutus in space
'Dance-Along Nutcracker
2000: Into Outer Space'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 48 • 30 November 2000



Michael (Hal Sparks),
Brian (Gale Harold), and
Justin (Randy Harrison) of
Showtime's *Queer As Folk*

Folks like us

Showtime offers an American take on *Queer As Folk*

by Mark J. Huisman

So Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is now the center of the known queer universe? Who knew the town would turn out to be so hip? Taking its place alongside other cities that have long served as cinematic queer Everytowns — New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami and Los Angeles — Steel-town, USA has never looked, sounded, flirted or teased so darned good. In a spill of snappy, iridescent visuals from a gayastro-escape to a neon nightclub full of ripe, rippling bodies dancing to booming music, we're introduced to Showtime's *Queer As Folk* with a small down Liberty Avenue, the main queer drag from which the drama springs. *Queer As Folk* premieres on December 3.

As Michael Novoty (Hal Sparks), the series' resident best friend, notes while surveying the gyrating hips and bare chests of local hot spot Babylon, "Why be home alone at 1 a.m. when you can be here? Where you can see the most beautiful man in the world, at least until tomorrow night." Perhaps that very bounty is the reason why, Michael says, "Men think about sex every 28 seconds. Straight men, that is. Gay men think about sex every nine seconds."

That's unless you're Brian Kinney (Gale Harold), the queer Don Juan who never stops thinking about sex because he's having it all the time. Even after a quick blow job before leaving the club, it's slippers down again when Brian spots Justin (newly out coverboy Randy Harrison) leaning against a street lamppost, and ditch his friends Michael, Emmett (openly gay Peter Paige) and Ted (Scott Lowell), leaving them at the curb while he tears off home to tear into some teenage ass. (The sequences that follow, in which Justin has his first gay sex and Brian becomes — gulp! — a father, are hilariously intertwined, so set your VCR: You won't possibly hear all the jokes the first time around.)

Rounding out the cast are Michael's queer-rights-booster mom, Debbie (Sharon Gless, of *Cagney & Lacey*), looking frightfully supportive in rainbow ribbons and slogan buttons; and his HIV-positive uncle, Vic (the wonderful Jack Wetherall), first seen poring over some Italian vacation bills he didn't expect to live to see. Whoops!

And just when QAF seems like it can't possibly pick up more speed, we meet the hottest lesbian couple to grace the screen since Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Lindsay Peterson (Thea Gill) and Melanie Marcus (Michelle Clunie) are longterm lovers whose late-night childbirth creates some seriously uproarious hospital drama. And all this

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

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by Roberto Friedman and Brad Sheet

We miss the old Hearst Examiner already, don't you? Where else are we ever going to find headlines like, "Brain-eating flies to be sicced on fire ants" (Exam, 11/16/00)? The old Exam was a tabloid in the shape of a broadsheet, and what a concept! There's no replacing in our memory its classic front-page banner head when that poor child aviator crashed in stormy weather: "Jessica to Mom: 'It looks like rain!'"

Our hunch is that the new Fangxaminer, even with its multi-million dollar Hearst subsidy, just cannot compare. Don't think its "Food & Drink" section doesn't have us quaking in our boots, but what exactly has publisher Ted Fang bought with his ill-gotten gains? A whole lot of wire copy, from the looks of it.

Out There was invited to the first press run of the *Chronicle PM* last Wednesday, which was sweet of them to think of us, really, but we passed due to more pressing concerns, like scrubbing out our tub. We were as curious as anyone to see the new *Chronicle* roll off the presses, of course — and strangely, it turns out to look just like the old *Chronicle*, only more bloated!

Meantime we're glad all the valedictories and testimonials from Exam and Chron staffers finally appear to be slowing to a trickle. Perhaps the nadir was reached last week when that Chron columnist blithered on about the noble lives of her poor fellow journalists, who, we were told on a front-page teaser, "work like dogs." Well, yes, like union dogs with pension plans and five weeks/year paid vacation. OT did enjoy the photo lineup of old Exam staffers mugging for the camera one last time, especially that cheeky art critic making donkey ears behind that estimable music critic. "They weren't donkey ears!" insisted the culprit. "It was the sign of the devil!"

Matinee idle

Here's a cautionary tale, children: when you bring on a star-



Michael Childers

"Twin Agave," from *Hollywood Voyeur*, by Michael Childers

studded Hollywood cast to a local boondocks theatre production, you also get Hollywood-sized egos and Hollywood diva tantrums at no extra price. Word is that when TV star Cheech Marin had to take a recent matinee of *The Late Henry Moss* off, to go work on the Tube's *Nash Bridges*, his castmate the film star Sean Penn balked at doing two shows himself that day, and at working with Marin's very able understudy. Proving that H'wood is still very much an Old Boy's network, Penn then allegedly convinced fellow movie star Nick Nolte to go along with him in refusing to do the afternoon show.

Result: at 1 o'clock that day, just one hour before showtime, the theatre announced that the matinee was canceled. Arriving theatregoers were offered seats that had been intended for "rush seats" later in the sold-out run — in most cases, not as good seats as the ones they had bought. But at least one or two spoiled-brat egos were satisfied, and that's what's important.

The naked city

Speaking of Hollywood, one of the industry's prominent photographers, Michael Childers, will be signing copies of his book *Hollywood Voyeur* (Janssen) tonight, November 30, 5:30-7 p.m. at Rizzoli Bookstore, 117 Post St. The book is mostly a collection of

black-and-white portraits of male and female nudes. "Hollywood is a town filled with exhibitionists waiting to be viewed by the creative voyeur," says Childers. Certainly the town's mantra is, "Look at me!"

Childers' book also includes his photographs of illustrious LA citizens like artist David Hockney, who provides the introduction; performance artists Vaginal Creme Davis and Rachel Rosenthal; and porn tycoon Chi Chi LaRue. These portraits, thankfully, are not in the nude.

For more information on the book-signing, call Rizzoli at 984-0225.

Paws for art

Spotted at the highly successful *Big Deal* art auction earlier this month at SomArts Gallery, as she chatted with Visual Aid board member Richard Reisman of Napa Valley's Di Rosa Preserve, was none other than former *Batman* Cat Woman Julie Newmar. Statuesque and hardly hidden in the crowd in a bright lavender, hourglass-shaped dress, Newmar brought a touch of Hollywood glamour to the festivities as she ran a claw, er finger, over some of the more touchable ceramics. "Imagine! Only \$85!" she was overheard to purr.

Keno speech

Out There admits to occasionally tuning in to the PBS warhorse *Antiques Roadshow* for the guilty pleasures it offers: Aunt Madge discovering she has an ancient

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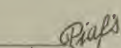
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Picking up the pieces with Jane Olivor

She's among 'Help Is on the Way' lineup

by Richard Dodds

Overcoming clinical depression, a wildly dysfunctional family, and overwhelming stage fright, Jane Olivor is picking up a career that she deep-sixed nearly two decades ago in frustration. The moody singer with the tremulous voice will be performing at two Bay Area venues just as her first new album in 18 years is reaching record stores.

"I left the business because I couldn't take the pressure," Olivor said from her home in Maryland. "I felt as if I had been shot out of a cannon and told to be a superstar. If I had my career to do over, I would never do it the way I did."

Olivor may no longer be on a career fast-track, but with the help of therapy, support groups, and anti-depressant drugs, she has found a certain peace with the way things are. "I think the album is a good album," she said. "I don't think it's great, but I'm proud of it for the work and effort behind it after 18 years."

She will be performing selections from the new *Love Decides* CD along with old favorites from her Columbia albums at the

Osher Marin Jewish Community Center for two performances on Dec. 2. And then on Dec. 4, she'll join the star-studded lineup for the first edition of *Help Is on the Way for the Holidays* at the Herbst Theatre, benefiting the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation.

Born and reared in Brooklyn, and still sporting an accent at odds with the elegance of her voice in song, Olivor was too shy to sing in front of people. She kept the music bottled up inside as family dramas swirled around her.

"My family is quite volatile," she said. "There were rages and fights every single day, and that doesn't exactly bring about an atmosphere for an artist to develop confidence. To develop overwhelming fears, yes. I was happy when my parents divorced for the peace that might happen, but that was broken a year later when my mother remarried and she just kicked me out of the house. The betrayal was very difficult, and I think I'm still getting over it."

When Olivor finally gained the courage to let her music out, people liked what they heard. But she had no idea of what to do with her talent.

"I literally came out of

nowhere," she said. "I was in two folk groups which I adored, and I thought I was a folk singer until I was given pop music to sing, and I enjoyed that, too. Before I knew it, having played cabaret for about a year and a half, I was at Carnegie Hall. People think, oh, what a fabulous life, but in reality it was insane."

Bitter fruit

Olivor released five albums during her years with Columbia, and all are still available on CD. Not that she sees any money from their sales. "I signed a really bad contract," she said, "and I have to blame Columbia for their greediness. I was very bitter."

But for Olivor's fans, which includes a high gay and lesbian percentage, those albums are fondly remembered for her highly emotive renditions of such standards as "Some Enchanted Evening," "He's So Fine," and "I'm Always Chasing," as well as introducing

page 29 ►



Vocalist Jane Olivor makes a rare Bay Area appearance.

Holiday 'Help'

Help Is on the Way, the annual fundraiser for AIDS organizations, is inaugurating a holiday edition this year with an all-star line-up.

Help Is on the Way for the Holidays will take place on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre.

Among the entertainers who will take turns on stage are Toni Tennille, Erie Mills, Bruce Vilanch, Pam Dawber, Debby Boone, Sharon McNight, Jane Olivor, Paula West, Wesla Whitfield, Kenny Mazlow, and Samantha Samuels. Additions and subtractions may be forthcoming.

Help Is on the Way, which staged its sixth fundraising concert in June, is sponsored by the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, an organization founded by longtime friends Barbara Richmond and Peggy Ermet, who lost their only sons to AIDS.

The beneficiaries of the holiday concert are the Pediatric AIDS/HIV Program at Children's Hospital Oakland, the HIV Education Program at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, and PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support).

Show tickets start at \$35. Sponsor tickets, which include admission to a cast dessert part, start at \$100. For more information call 273-1620.

— Richard Dodds

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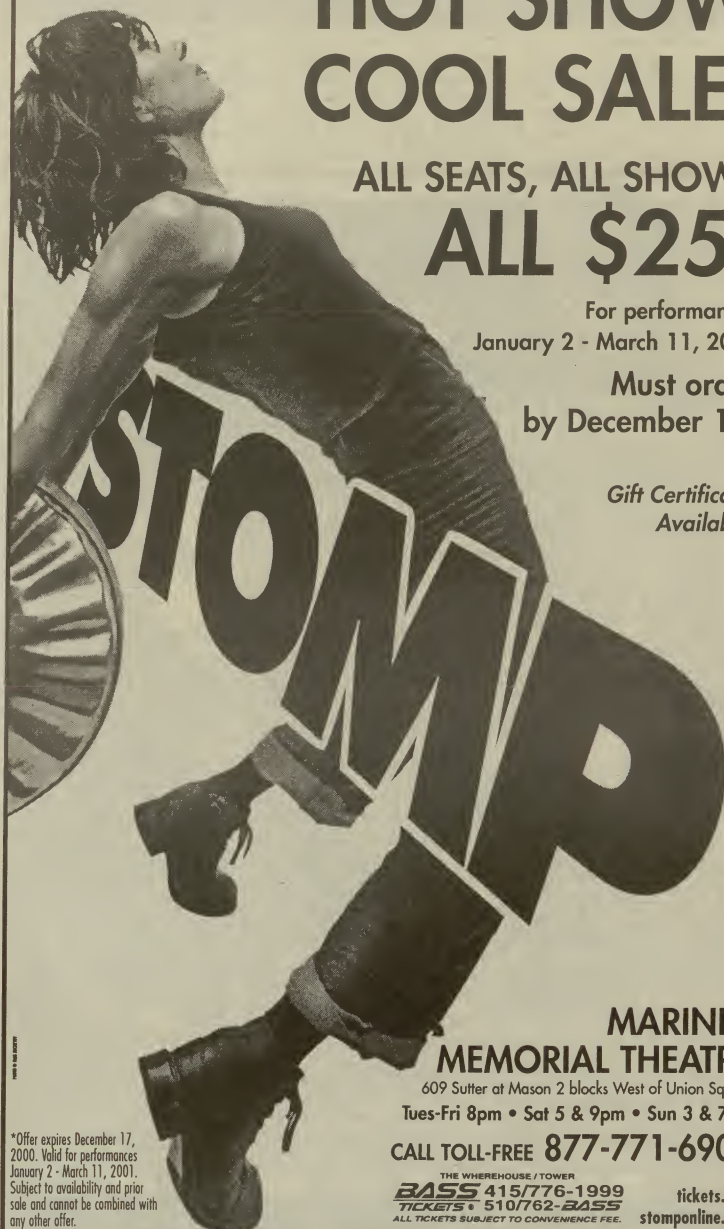
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The Wesla Whitfield experience

Winter shows at the Plush Room

by Jim Van Buskirk

For those of you who have yet to experience the pleasure of one of the foremost figures in the fragile art form of cabaret at one of the best rooms in the country, let me explain exactly what to expect when you go to hear Wesla Whitfield, now appearing at the Plush Room.

As you enter, the well-appointed lobby of the York Hotel likely looks considerably different from the way it did in 1958, when Alfred Hitchcock used it as the place where Kim Novak lived as the shopgirl Judy in *Vertigo*. You will be greeted at the door by Trevor Logan, the handsome and personable young man who runs the room, and ushered to a cozy table. One of the waitstaff takes your order (there's a two-drink minimum) and quickly returns with your beverage.

The lights dim, and as the voice of Brian Morse, on sound and lights, intones, "Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Plush Room," Mike Greensill and Ken Miller repair to piano and bass, respectively. A jazzy instrumental version of the 1930 Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz classic "Something to Remember You By" sets the mood, and slowly you're transported back to a time when life might have seemed a bit more civilized.

The lights dim again, then there she is seated comfortably in a cushioned barstool center stage. Whitfield immediately begins singing, her clear, crisp voice soaring around "Skylark," the perennial standard by Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael. No matter how many times you've heard the beautiful lyric, you're transfixed by the seeming simplicity of Whitfield's interpretation.

Without another word, she launches into a rapid-fire rendition of "Guys & Dolls" from Frank Loesser's 1950 classic Broadway musical, followed by "If I Were a Bell" from the same show. No, she assures us, she's not going to sing the entire score, playing all the

parts. But she'd like to some day. Wise and witty, Whitfield's pseudo-sardonic patter sets up these songs perfectly.

The title of her show, *Lucky To Be Me*, means, she informs us with a wink, that she gets to sing all her favorite songs. She narrowed that list to 500, and then to 150, all from the treasure chest known as the great American songbook. Cabaret standards by composers like Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Rodgers and Hart, and Harold Arlen are rendered in superb arrangements by Greensill. Sassy, sweet and always fresh, Whitfield delivers the goods with subtlety and understatement, expertly rushing some phrasing, and slowing other lines way down. Whether these 15 carefully chosen songs are familiar friends or new territory, you have excellent tour guides in Greensill and Whitfield. Together (they're husband and wife), they musically mine the exquisite material. Sometimes you can't quite tell if she's uncovered long lost lyrics or if you're finally hearing them clearly for the first time.

To the classic mix they've added a few little-known gems, like the beautiful "The Blues are Brewin'" by Eddie DeLange and Louis Alter. A trio of tunes from *On the Town* by Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Leonard Bernstein is a triumph: "I Can Cook Too" with every double entendre knowingly and effortlessly evoked; a wistful "Some Other Time"; and "Lucky to Be Me," which Whitfield has turned into a personal anthem. Whitfield has a secret weapon: subtext. Without realizing it, you find yourself understanding the narrative of these songs on multiple levels. How does she do it? She talks about the technique a little, heightening the enjoyment.

All too soon, the evening is over. The rousing final song "Fascinating Rhythm" by the Gershwins is followed by the encore, Noel Coward's poignant "Sail Away." Suddenly, Whitfield has disappeared, and you realize you must return to the real world.

But take heart, she'll be performing this and similarly sublime sets through January 20. Here's a perfect opportunity to take those friends and relatives in town for the winter holidays and looking for a sophisticated San Francisco experience, or perhaps treat yourself to a romantic evening as a break from the season's mania.

Since it seems Whitfield just keeps improving with age, let me recommend her latest CD, *Let's Get Lost* offers impeccable arrangements of relatively obscure gems by Jimmy McHugh, perfectly rendered by Whitfield and Greensill. With lyrics by such pros as Dorothy Fields, Johnny Mercer and others, this is an album that grows richer with each listening. ▼

Wesla Whitfield plays the Plush Room at the York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., through Jan. 20. Cover is \$20-25. Call (415) 885-2800.



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Jane Olivor

◀ page 27

listeners to the likes of "L'Important C'est la Rose," "One More Ride on the Merry-Go-Round," and "Stay the Night."

Olivor claims to be oblivious to the demographics of her audiences, including her appeal to gay audiences. "I just really sang for myself and hoped that other people would be moved," she said, "and the next thing I knew people were asking me about the gay community. All I can say is if they find me appealing, I'm thrilled, because you guys are very sharp."

But there was a time when affection from an audience actually scared Olivor. "I didn't know what they were clapping for," she said. "The depression was so deep I couldn't hear what I was doing. Plus I had tons of stage fright. I always thought I'd forget the words, which is paralyzing."

And so with all these issues bedeviling her, Olivor walked away from her career in 1983. In 1984, she married a doctor who was diagnosed with cancer shortly after their marriage. He died six months later. She moved to Fort

Lauderdale to regroup, and in 1991 decided to stage a very small comeback at a Holiday Inn in Miami. She was elated when fans filled the room, and she began a long and cautious rebuilding process that has culminated in the new album.

The Holiday Inn spelled her name wrong on the marquee, but the singer is used to being called Olivor rather than Olivor. It's a made-up name anyway.

"When I was a secretary," she said, "I was typing on an Olivetti while looking for a new name."

Is Jane her real first name?

"Jane is real," she replied.

So what is her real last name?

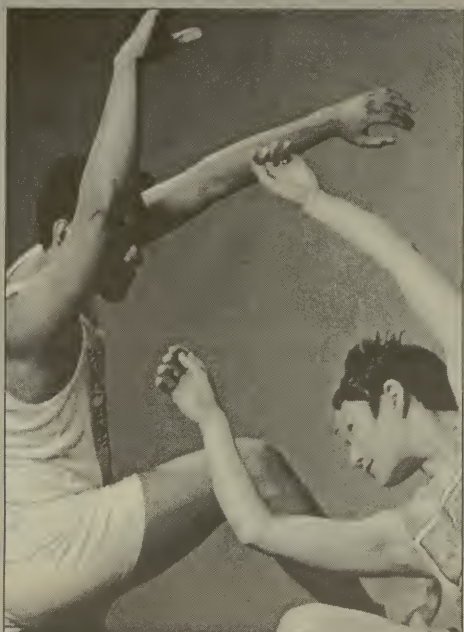
"You jest," she said, clearly unwilling to part with that information.

Okay, then, how about her nationality? "International human being." ▼

Jane Olivor will perform in concert on Dec. 2 at 8 and 10 p.m. at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center. Tickets are \$28. Call 479-2000. Olivor will also be part of *Help Is on the Way for the Holidays* on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre. Call 273-1620.

DANCE

Indian influences



A lifelong fascination with the dance and music of India are the inspiration for Nancy Karp + Dancers' new evening-length, large-scale collaborative work *Kalasam*, choreographed to an original commissioned music score by composer Paul Dresher. The world premiere marks the beginning of Nancy Karp + Dancers' 21st anniversary season.

The opening night is slated for Thursday, November 30 at 8 p.m. at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, with additional performances on Friday and Saturday, December 1-2 at 8 p.m.

For tickets (\$20-\$24), call (415) 441-3687. ▼

Audience abuse and other magic acts

'Penn & Teller' at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

In an audience "lousy with children," Penn Jillette assured parents that the *Penn & Teller* show contains "no obscenity, only blasphemy. We just take the Lord's name in vain, which is the only way to take it."

A slight recoil could be detected among first-nighters at the Curran Theatre, but even with a liberal sprinkling of "goddamns" and "Jesus Christs" through the evening, along with several non-obscene "bitches" and "bastards," the opening-night audience seemed ready to go along for whatever rude ride these bad boys of magic wanted to take them on.

After all, you don't go to Penn and Teller for the glitz of Siegfried and Roy or the portentousness of David Copperfield. For 26 years, the duo has been turning the traditional magic act inside out. They proudly wear the scam-artist label, and it's impossible to tell if their scamming is ever really turned off.

Their new show is light on actual magic tricks, which are hit and miss, and heavy on gab (from Penn, naturally) as well as audience participation. A little girl named Marina was enlisted for a bit involving the disappearing cuts in a piece of polyester, which was-



'Bad boys of magic' Penn & Teller continue to shock audiences

n't all that fantastic. But there was something endearing about the sketch when Penn demanded of Marina to "explain that, you scuzzy little freak."

A knife-throwing act involving an audience member named Lisa involved no prestidigitation at all, but was hard to resist as Penn and Teller tormented the poor woman. When they ventured into their more elaborate illusions, the payoffs didn't always match the setups. That certainly was the case in a complicated trick that had something to do with Houdini, with Teller apparently moving behind a curtain despite being

strapped to a chair.

Yet for the occasional magical misfires and long-winded interludes, Penn and Teller are savvy enough showmen to keep an audience at attention for two hours. "Run with the scissors," Penn told little Marina in the self-mending polyester bit. When she did, audience members gasped — and wondered what these guys would do next to merrily unnerve them. ▼

Penn & Teller will run at the Curran Theatre through Dec. 3. Tickets are \$24-\$49. Call 551-2000.

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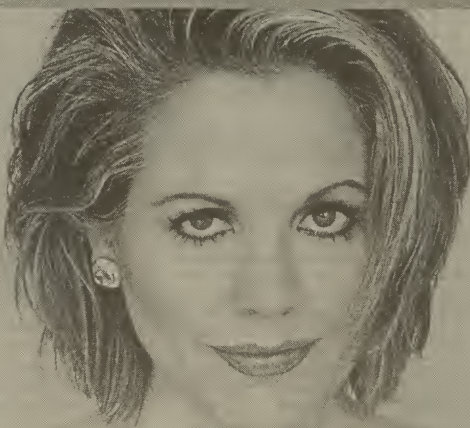


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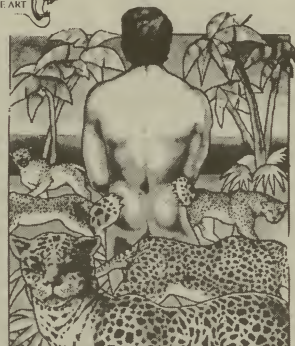
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Return of the maestro

Conductor Laureate Blomstedt fortnight

by Philip Campbell

For the past two weeks, patrons of the San Francisco Symphony have been enjoying the musical equivalent of hefty helpings of comfort food as served by the orchestra's former Music Director, Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt.

During his decade of leadership (1985-1995), Blomstedt built a band of dedicated players intent on creating a recognizable sound. His success in catching international attention came with a series of award-winning recordings for the Decca label, but his local fame stemmed more from a meticulous musicianship and care with the core repertoire of classics.

The Blomstedt years were hardly scintillating in the manner of current Director Michael Tilson Thomas, yet he won the hearts of Symphony subscribers anyway, with his warm paternal stage presence and dry Scandinavian humor.

As Laureate, Blomstedt returns yearly for a fortnight of appearances, and his arrival in time for the Thanksgiving holiday was particularly appropriate for his expected choice of traditional concert favorites. He was also blessed with one exceptionally talented guest soloists.

Pianist Richard Goode has made a very respectable career with the concertos of Mozart and sonatas of Beethoven. His recordings for Nonesuch have garnered a Grammy nomination, and his last outing with the SFS was also with Herbert Blomstedt, performing another Mozart piano concerto. His recent performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503 was a wonderful reminder of his artistry, and a spur to acquiring his recording of the work with the conductorless Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

The Concerto No. 25 is the longest and one of the most symphonic in the remarkable canon of masterpieces by Mozart. Goode was unstinting in his attention to detail, but he allowed an emotional depth to imbue the rather formal central Andante, and the brilliant closing Allegretto held no terror for him. The other players followed Blomstedt's old-fashioned big-band lead with aplomb, and the results were wonderfully invigorating.



Conductor Herbert Blomstedt

The second half of that program was reserved for the Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 73, his longest essay in that genre, and a piece particularly suited to Blomstedt's grasp of large musical architecture. Taking his time and coaxing big, sonorous climaxes hardly made the work appear more concise, though the pace allowed for an organic, inexorable effect. The horns were imperfect at times, but the strings played their hearts out and sounded richer and sweeter than they often do for MTT. It was a fine performance and a good way to welcome Blomstedt back.

Nordic set

Last week, for the holiday weekend, the program was again weighted with two reliable crowd-pleasers, but the august conductor also had a startling surprise up his sleeve. Never known for more than a cursory interest in contemporary works, Blomstedt has instead concentrated on modern scores associated with (appropriately) Nordic composers. His complete recorded set of the symphonies of Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) with the SFS made a real splash on Decca/London, but could hardly be deemed a flirtation with the avant-garde. Still, I have always felt that his analytical abilities would serve new music well.

My hunch proved correct when violinist Elmar Oliveira triumphed with Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's magnificent Violin Concerto, accompanied confidently and sensitively by none other than the gray eminence himself. The contours and complexities of the orchestral

background, and indeed the interaction with the soloist were firmly in Blomstedt's grasp. The orchestra also had no trouble following his direction, and the results were really spectacular.

The Concerto is a relatively brief work (some 25 minutes), but it covers a lot of territory, ranging from ecstatic flights of cantilena (lyrical melody) to witty, even amusing dialogue and passages of breathtaking declamation. Oliveira clearly has the skill and temperament for such a difficult score, and, best of all, he has the ability to convey the meaning and beauty of Rautavaara's tour de force.

There are hints of Finland's beloved Sibelius in the music, and he was a mentor to Rautavaara. The living composer's attraction to angels (the kind that appear in William Blake, not New Age self-help manuals) also informs the mysterious power of the soloist's journey through ever-shifting landscapes. The composer asks the violinist to supply a horizon, and Oliveira made very recognizable guideposts.

The audience was polite and attentive and perhaps a little surprised at their own ready acceptance of the Concerto, which was receiving its first SFS performances. The soloist was awarded an appreciative ovation, and Maestro Blomstedt earned a new respect from me.

The evening had begun with a lovely and alert rendition of Weber's Overture to *Oberon*; the second half of the bill was given to Dvorak's beloved Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, *From the New World*. This is more predictable Blomstedt territory, and he went from strength to strength in each gorgeously melodic movement. The thrill of the opening pages and the overwhelming nostalgia of the famous Largo (you know, *Going home, going home*) avoided schmaltz, aiming for orchestral tightness and a more subdued solo from the English horn than might ordinarily be accepted. The Scherzo and the fabulously tuneful Allegro con fuoco Finale fairly whizzed by, and Blomstedt was only let down by the horns. Their errors were hardly enough to spoil the effect, however, and the audience leapt to their feet in jubilation.

I cannot bring myself to award a standing salute so easily, but I certainly want to thank Dvorak for writing such a delightful symphony and assure Herbert Blomstedt that I greatly admire his remarkable professionalism and obvious belief in the great music he so beautifully presents. ▼

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OPERA

Berger without fear

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm sitting in the Cafe Flore, eyeing the front door, waiting for my interview to appear, when a guy carrying bottled water and a pastry looms over my table and says, "I hear that's a good book."

I'm reading William Berger's *Verdi with a Vengeance*, just published by Vintage Books, and the smiling guy with the splendid mustache is my interview, the author himself. He knows the Flore so well, he came in the back door. Immediately I discover that the bio and photo in the front of his book are not entirely helpful.

For one thing, mustache aside, Berger's photo depicts a brooding, stern-looking guy who could easily be a professional top. We don't discuss the details of his sex life, but in person Berger's a pussycat, warm and funny, with an enthusiasm for opera — without the typical nuttiness — that you might encounter in the Met's standing room line.

In about three sentences, the "interview" devolves into an operatic dish session, probably because Berger and I share the same attitude towards the art form. We believe opera is more fun (and more profound) when it is totally demented — down with the "station wagon diva" — but that doesn't mean we have to be demented ourselves.

Not that Berger claims to be an expert. "I approach this whole business, writing about opera, as a member of the audience. I never

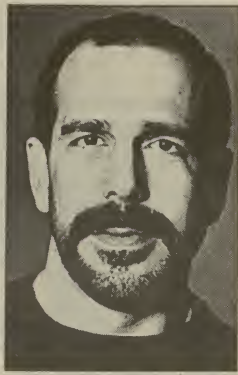
pretend to know anything I don't actually know. I'm not a professional musician [though he studied piano, viola and baritone horn ("Trying to be butch")] and I've never written a critical review."

That's a tad disingenuous, as both his first book, *Wagner without Fear* (also Vintage) and *Verdi with a Vengeance* are studded with opinionated, in-ye-face, on-the-money reviews of singers, conductors and opera productions. The guy may not think of himself as a professional critic, but he can hear and he has Ernest Hemingway's built-in bullshit detector.

Between 1980 and 1984, while studying romance languages and Italian literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz, Berger supported himself by working for the San Francisco Opera. His bio, in an excess of tortured grammar, says he "acquired [sic] for the company's recorded music collection." I assumed this meant he worked in the music library, but no, he was the Opera Shop's recordings purchaser. He also did translations for the department that helped foreign artists with taxes and living arrangements.

Annoying Berlin

Though he didn't think he could make a living in opera, Berger soon moved to New York, where he taught Italian, worked in design (architectural history is one of his main enthusiasms) and wrote copy for the Performing Arts Book Club. He also spent every spare hour at the Metropolitan Opera. When his lover died in 1995, leaving him a small inheri-



Author William Berger

tance, Berger decided to spend it in Germany, where he attended Bayreuth and so annoyed friends in Berlin with his anger at the way Wagner was treated — a fatal combination of too much adulation and too much hatred — that they urged him to write about it.

That's where the idea for *Wagner without Fear* arose. In my opinion, this is the single best practical volume ever written for dealing with Wagner and *Wagnerism*. It's also hilariously funny, and was so successful that Berger now has a contract with Vintage for more handbooks on opera composers. Puccini is the next subject, and Berger can barely conceal his glee at the prospect. Far from the standard "shabby little shocker" view of Puccini, Berger believes that the Tuscan composer "actually nailed what Wagner and Verdi were striving for. The last act of *Fanciulla* is fabulous."

Asked about contemporary opera, Berger gets off one of his funniest rants, so smooth and quick that I'm sure he's used it before, but it's so good, why not? "Opera was born dead, and it's been dead for 400 years. So much for relevance. Don't try to keep it alive, just keep it good. With contemporary opera, they'll just have

to keep trying until they get it right." The sigh that follows suggests he hasn't been too impressed with the results so far.

If you want to reform something, however, do it yourself. So Berger contributed to James Skofield's libretto for Robert Moran's *The Dracula Diaries*, and he's written his own original libretto, *The Wolf of Gubbio*, based on an incident in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. "It's the first Christian-anarchistic-environmental fable. Not a high concept work!" Again the misleading bio suggests that Berger and composer Patrick Barnes have completed the opera, but Berger says no, he's only heard a few snippets of music, though he likes what he's heard so far.

Writing and book tours take up much of his time, though he's still working part-time jobs (bartending, medical librarian, writing marketing copy) until the royalties kick in. He spends a lot of time listening to live opera. "I'm not a

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BOOK REVIEW

Verily Verdi

by Stephanie von Buchau

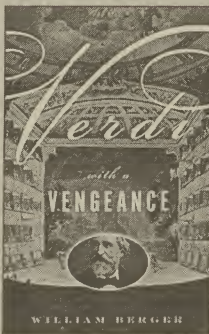
Verdi with a Vengeance by William Berger; Vintage Original paperback, \$15

Wagner without Fear was such a great book — informative, funny and necessary — that it's probably inevitable that Berger's next volume would be less fun. Berger told me that his mandate for the books was different. In Wagner's case, it was to "take him less seriously, to let some of the gas out of the discussion." With Verdi, it was "to take him more seriously."

But does anyone today not take Verdi seriously? The composer hardly needs to be rescued (except from bad conductors) as Wagner does from fanatic foes or zoned-out fans. Face it, Verdi was a stiff-necked sourpuss who treated his wife and parents badly, yet happened to be one of the three greatest opera composers who ever lived (yes, Wagner and Mozart are the other two). There is not much Berger can do to satirize or make Verdi entertaining.

His operas are a different matter. Where half of the fun of Wagner is personal and the music is only half as good as Wagnerites claim, the opposite is true of Verdi. Not surprisingly, the most sustained value of this book is the painstaking discussion of all the operas and Berger's "Comments." I've been listening to Verdi for half a century, and I discovered things even I didn't know. If you want amusing dish and dirt with your facts, you go to the back of the book for "Exploring Verdi" on disc, stage, film and in print. These sections are so interesting that I found them too short.

Berger has a terrific time with the available CDs, just as he did with the Wagner discography. His jokes tend toward the arcane (Cheryl Studer gets a good bashing), yet his stout partisanship of the Philips-Gardelli-Carreras early Verdi discs, long dismissed by snobbish critics, is worth the price of the book. So is his love of Visconti's neglected film, *Senso*, an operatic melodrama about thwarted passion in the Risorgimento, with music by Verdi and Bruckner. Here is a writer whose enthusiasm for operatic music and everything attached to it comes through on every page. On to Puccini, Strauss and, dare we hope, Massenet? ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER

Commanding cinema

Krzysztof Kieslowski's 'Decalogue' at the Castro Theatre

by Robert Julian

I have no trouble at all identifying the 1990s' greatest accomplishment in film. For my money, it's Krzysztof Kieslowski's trilogy: *Blue* (1993), *White* (1993) and *Red* (1994). The three films are meditations on the concepts of liberty, equality, and fraternity respectively, as symbolized by the colors of the French flag. They were the crowning glory and the final accomplishment of this great Polish director. After *Red* opened, Kieslowski announced his retirement. A year later, he was dead at the age of 54.

But before these final films, Kieslowski perfected his ability to work in metaphor with an impressive series of ten short films made for Polish television, based on the Ten Commandments. The series is known as *The Decalogue*, and the Castro Theatre is running all ten episodes, in order, over the two-week period beginning December 1. With incredible hubris, or a highly refined sense of purpose, Kieslowski does not tell the audience which commandment is being illuminated at the beginning of each hour-long episode. For clarification along these lines, you'll need to refer to the Castro's calendar.

All ten one-hour episodes are set in, or near, a brutalist Warsaw housing project — one of those gray highrise buildings, filled with gray working-class inhabitants, surrounded by gray winter skies and barren fields. Against this bleak landscape, Kieslowski and his writing partner, Krzysztof Piesiewicz, present ten fables of people living in quiet desperation who find themselves entangled in some sort of moral dilemma. The ways in which these individuals work through their challenges provide a great opportunity for the filmmaker to explore the breadth and depth of human emotional responses and how



Jan Tesarz in Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Decalogue 5*

they vary from one person to another.

Some episodes of *The Decalogue* (e.g. Number 5, "Thou Shalt Not Kill") are literal illustrations of the commandments and the consequences that befall someone who disregards them. But Kieslowski is one of the least literal-minded directors imaginable. You never know where he's going to take you, and when you finally get there, you may find yourself asking, "Where are we?" In Episode 2, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in Vain," the relationship of the story to the commandment is so obscure that a clear connection may not emerge for the viewer. But this is one of the risks you take with a filmmaker like Kieslowski.

Throughout *The Decalogue*, Kieslowski the director gets strong performances from an excellent ensemble of actors, but don't arrive expecting comedy. Only the final episode of *The Decalogue* ("Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his goods, nor anything that is thy neighbor's") offers

some comic relief from the relentlessly serious tone of the nine episodes that precede it. In this final chapter, a pair of bumbling brothers inherit a valuable stamp collection from their father and are absolutely clueless about how to handle their legacy.

In the ten episodes, there is no homosexual content whatsoever, and the films are in their original

Polish with English subtitles. Fans of Kieslowski's work (remember *The Double Life of Veronique*?) will want to check out at least one or two of the screenings. Unlike *Blue*, *White* and *Red*, you don't have to see the entire series to fully appreciate Kieslowski's accomplishment. My favorite episodes are the first (shown Dec. 1-3) and the eighth (Dec. 10-12). The opening chapter, "I am the Lord thy god; thou shalt have no other gods before me," is a heartbreaker, with one of the most beautiful and mesmerizing child actors I have ever seen. Episode eight, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," presents an engrossing set of moral challenges for a Holocaust survivor that will keep you talking, and thinking, long after the film is over.

And if you can't make any of *The Decalogue* screenings at the Castro, rent *Blue*, *White*, and *Red*, and screen them in this order, on successive evenings (the films are in French, with English subtitles). There has never been anyone quite like Kieslowski. His work is characterized by subtlety, intelligence, and piercing insight into human nature; as a filmmaker, he had the heart of a poet. ▼

Making a killing

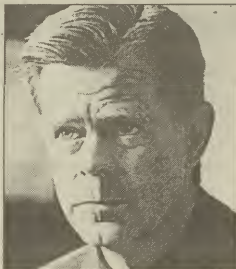
'Panic' attack at the Roxie

by Robert Julian

As a cover, Alex runs a small retail store, but murder-for-hire is his primary profession. Alex is depressed. His marriage is boring, he hates his work, he's in his mid-40s, and he wants a new life. But since Alex is a second-generation hit-man, whose father now serves as his agent, getting out of the business is not only complicated, it's lethal. This is the premise of Henry Bromell's quirky little film *Panic*, an off-beat drama blessed with a stellar cast.

Writer/director Bromell not only snared the quintessential schlemiel, William H. Macy, to play Alex, but he got Donald Sutherland to play Alex's creepazoid father. Tracey Ullman is Martha, Alex's unsuspecting wife, who stays at home raising their adorable son, portrayed effectively by young David Dorfman. The fabric of family unity, already stretched dangerously thin by the family "business," comes apart with Alex's mid-life crisis. Alex seeks counseling and meets Sarah (Neve Campbell) in his therapist's waiting room. Against her better judgment, the lesbian Sarah lets Alex into her life and her bedroom, just as Alex receives a new contract from his dad. The victim: Alex's shrink, played by John Ritter.

Production designer Dan Bishop and art director Dan Bradford create a colorful yet emotionally sterile Los Angeles backdrop as the setting for Bromell's story. And cameraman Jeffrey Jur photographs the action using a nice combination of long shots and intimate scenes between two actors. Director Bromell employs a slow pace that parallels Alex's contemplative mood as he comes to the realization that he can no longer continue working as a hired assassin for



William H. Macy in *Panic*

the father he despises. When Alex's father surreptitiously takes Alex's son to the woods and forces him to shoot a squirrel, Alex finally snaps.

With a premise as over-the-top as this one, there are more than a few funny moments in *Panic*. But the overall tone of the film is a serious one that shows how difficult it is for people to create and accept change in their lives — especially when they reach middle age. One of the film's unexpected surprises is the presence of Barbara Bain as Alex's mother. Now in her late 60s, Bain finally abandons the ice-blond *sangfroid* that carried her through several years of *Mission: Impossible* and becomes a genuine actress. Here she successfully combines elements of the typical aging suburban hausfrau with the kind of moral depravity you haven't seen since Angela Lansbury in *The Manchurian Candidate*. It is a rich, three-dimensional portrait that succeeds on every level.

Panic isn't for everyone. But if you're willing to take a risk on something that bears no resemblance to the typical Hollywood product, this may be the movie for you. ▼

Panic plays the Roxie Dec. 1-14.

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DISCS

Class consciousness

'Pygmalion' is out on DVD

by Gary Morris

The plays of George Bernard Shaw have long been a cinema staple. Works like *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Saint Joan*, *Major Barbara*, *Pygmalion*, et al. have appeared in all kinds of incarnations, from cheesy TV movies to classic Hollywood musicals. *Pygmalion* has proved one of the most enduring, revived in several countries and genres, most recently in the 1999 Freddie Prinze Jr. vehicle *She's All That*. While lack of availability of some versions must color our judgment — who knows what *Kanske en gentleman* (Sweden, 1951) or the TV series *Pigmalião 70* (Brazil, 1970) are really like? — most fans would agree that there are really only two versions to consider: Anthony Asquith's *Pygmalion* and George Cukor's *My Fair Lady*. Asquith's film has often been overshadowed by Cukor's, but the release of *Pygmalion* in a mostly fine DVD transfer (with minimal speckles and grain) shows that it has its own interest and identity apart from the musical version.

Anthony Asquith was no stranger to Shaw or the theatre. His career, starting in 1928 with *Underground* and ending in 1964 with *The Yellow Rolls-Royce*, is studded with prestige adaptations of plays, from Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1952) to two others by Shaw, *The Doctor's Dilemma* (1959) and *The Millionairess* (1960). A careful craftsman and, happily for Shaw, a faithful interpreter of a proven quantity, Asquith was an ideal choice for *Pygmalion*. He and Leslie Howard (who plays Henry Higgins) are listed as codirectors, but it's generally agreed that this is classic Asquith — superior performances, strong narrative, polished look. The list of collaborators is among the era's best: David Lean (editor), Harry Stradling (cinematographer), and Schiaparelli (costumes).

The film opens on one of London's crowded streets, gorgeously rendered in Stradling's velvety blacks and whites. These streets are the marketplace for garrulous gamin Eliza Doolittle (Wendy Hiller), who ekes out a living selling flowers to wealthy slummers. Higgins is one of these slummers, loitering among the lower classes to sharpen his skills at identifying people's home and history by their dialect. He brags about these skills and, in a fit of hubris, claims he

could transform even a "gutter-snipe" like Eliza into a "duchess" by revamping her language. To his surprise, she takes him seriously, showing up unannounced at his mansion and offering him a shilling to teach her "manners" and good speech. Financed by his friend Colonel Pickering, he agrees to do this. What follows is all manner of comic mayhem, and no small amount of class cruelty, as Higgins tortures Eliza into a pastiche of the upper classes and she transforms him equally, into a human being with feelings.

Eat the rich

Shaw, a lifelong socialist, believed class was a social construct, easily challenged, and he used his play in part as a bully pulpit to target the rich. Thus Higgins, who might have been treated as a mere eccentric in the hands of another author, becomes a paradigm of upper-crust creepiness, capricious and bullying in his attempt to wring a duchess out of the "sodden cabbage leaf" Eliza. He presages in a lighter vein James Stewart's Scottie Ferguson in *Vertigo*, though admittedly the latter's attempt to transform the trashy Judy (Kim Novak) into the regal, mysterious Madeleine is a far more grim and vicious process. Asquith's faithfulness to Shaw pays off beautifully here, giving full play to the author's counterpointing of Higgins' complex mix of genius and juvenility with Eliza's engaging blend of innocence and street-smarts.

Asquith lets the actors make the most of Shaw's superb dialogue. Howard, for example, clearly relishes his verbal assaults on Eliza. Even in their first meeting on the street, he practically glows when referring to her "curbstone English, the English that will keep her all her days in the gutter." Later, he gleefully ratchets up the insults: "She's so deliciously low, so horribly dirty. I shall make a duchess of this drizzle-tail gutter-snipe." And he offers a caution that if she fails in the experiment they've embarked on, "Your head will be cut off as a warning to other presumptuous flower girls."

Of course, as Eliza changes, so does Higgins. Her lingering presence in his house, the first in the self-professed woman-hater's history, inspires Higgins' housekeeper Mrs. Pearce (Jean Cadell) to set down new rules for her employer: no swearing, no walking around in a dressing gown. *Pygmalion* be-

comes almost as much Higgins' story as Eliza's, as the professor's amusement at the success of his experiment gives way to a quite unexpected melancholy at the idea of her departure from his house and his life.

In spite of his fidelity to the play, Asquith can't be accused of merely transferring Shaw's original to celluloid with no cinematic intervention. He handles Eliza's transformation with aplomb in a montage that cleverly intercuts scenes of Higgins upbraiding her with otherworldly images of the bizarre accoutrements of his laboratory — a sinister laughing clown, giant plaster ears — a lab which looks more than a little like the lair of a mad scientist. The film also brings to life scenes originally played offstage, most memorably in Eliza's second public test at the grand ball in which she meets the queen and mesmerizes everybody in sight.

Stilt crazy

One of the best scenes is the allegedly overhauled Eliza's first encounter with a drawing room full of rich people. Still not entirely divorced from her "gutter" origins, she regales the group with absurdly stilted declarations about the weather ("In Hampshire, Hereford, and Hartford, hurricanes hardly ever happen!"), then lapses into penny-dreadful tales of murderous husbands and aunts "done in" by gin. At her second encounter, the grand ball, she's polished to the point of muteness,



and can now fool everyone with ease. Later, in a poignant moment, she renders the normally babblesome Higgins speechless when she quietly affirms her humanity at the expense of his: "I sold flowers ... I didn't sell myself."

Performances, always a strength in an Anthony Asquith film, are uniformly fine, but the standout is unquestionably

Wendy Hiller. With one of the great faces in classic British cinema and a gravitas almost alarming in an actress only 25 when the film was shot, she evokes both the rough Eliza and the nouveau Miss Doolittle with scintillating power. Her riveting performance in *Pygmalion* made her an international star and the standard by which all future Elizas must be judged. ▼

William Berger

◀ page 33

recordings groupie." You'd never tell that from his surgical discussion of the extant Verdi and Wagner discographies. He adds, surprisingly for someone among whose favorite singers are the late Leonie Rysaneck and legendary Ettore Bastianini, "I'd rather attend a live opera workshop at a local college or music school than sit home listening to 'greatest hits' on CD."

The Wall

In addition to the book on Puccini, Berger admits he's working "very slowly" on a performance piece called *Karajan's Wake* (a triple pun). This is not so much about the late, much-abused Austrian conductor as about the significance of the historical period

between the raising of the Berlin Wall (coincident with Herbert von Karajan's international fame) and its collapse (his death).

Berger suggests that "The Communists versus the West conflict is the ultimate fragmented past, with the war and Holocaust as prelude. How do we put this all together again? Or is it possible?"

As an admirer of Karajan who has grown increasingly dismayed by the shift in the discussion of his art from music to politics — the British are like vultures at a dead cow feast on this subject — I can hardly wait to see what the thoughtful, witty, no bullshit Berger has to say. In the meantime, count on your fingers for the arrival of the Puccini book, about 2002. I suggest *Puccini for Patriots* as a provocative title, but Berger's quizzical smile hints he has a much better idea. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 1

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Extended run: Corpus Christi by Terrence McNally, directed by Ed Decker, featuring Teli Cardaci as Joshua, Tarek Khan as Phillip, Michael Barr as Andrew, Michael Beck as Peter, Michael Billingsley as Thomas, Ryan Canfield as John, Scott Cox as Math-

ew, Gary Wayne Farris as Bartholomew, Richard Gallagher as James, James Godwin as Thadeus, James Marks as Judas, and Kevin McMahon as James The Less. \$15-\$25. 8pm. Thru Jan. 6, 2001. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 861-8972.

Build Gallery

Erotic artist Frank Moore performs as "The Passions Conductor," for six hours weaving an erotic trance state

based on whomever enters his shaman's cave. \$5-the moon. 8pm-2am. 483 Guerrero (at 17th St.). Info: (510) 526-7858; www.eroplay.com

Noe Valley Ministry

The women's vocal ensemble Kitka present "Wintersongs," featuring seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. \$16 adv.; \$18 door. 8pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Tix: (510) 444-0323; www.ticketweb.com

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) hold their Monthly Chat Night. Topic: "Out of the Past," gay history from then till now. Refreshments served. Free. 7-9pm. 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th St.). second floor. Info: 675-0201; http: go.to/mactsfba

enne Fuzee and others. Free. Open to all. Refreshments provided. 2-4pm. Maude Fife Room, Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley. Info: (415) 777-5455; www.glhs.org

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Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

"Celebration of Craftswomen," the 22nd annual retail fair featuring creations by some 270 women artisans and fine artists. With original works in ceramic, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, and paper and wood. A benefit for the SF Women's Building. \$7 (\$10 two-day pass). 10am-6pm. Buchanan St. & Marina Blvd. Info: 383-3470; www.proeventusa.com

Randall Museum

"Holiday Crafts Fair," featuring handmade, wearable, practical and edible gifts by 30 craftspeople. Plus, kids of all ages can make gift cards and envelopes, rolled beeswax candles, and edible crafts including popcorn necklaces, candy houses and decorated cookies. Entry is free (crafts supplies range from \$1-\$3). 10am-5pm. At 2pm in the Randall Theater, the Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company will present "A Tribute to Charles Schulz" in song and dance (\$4-\$7 sliding admission). 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 554-9600, ext. 33.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

ODC/SF presents "The Velveteen Rabbit," a loving and sophisticated interpretation of the classic 1922 children's tale about the relationship between a boy and his rabbit, and the enduring power of love. Choreographed & directed by KT Nelson.

Featuring athletic dancing, narration by legendary clown Geoff Hoyle, colorful costumes and sets by children's illustrator Brian Wildsmith, and score by Benjamin Britten. \$12, \$27 & \$37. 1pm & 4pm. Thru Dec. 10. 700 Howard (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-2787; www.odcdance.org

SomArts Gallery

Phases presents the 5th annual "Medieval Manor Yule Feast/Venetian Masked Ball," a costume event recreating yule traditions of yore, with entertainment and catered food. \$25 (\$15 children/seniors; under 5 free). 8-11pm. 934 Brannan. Tix/info: 468-9664; www.phases.org

Mills College, Oakland

A multicultural cast performs in the classic interpretation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, directed by James C. Wright. Experience a bygone Londontown. \$8 (\$5 students/seniors; \$14 under 18). 7:30pm. Also on Dec. 3 (2pm), 8, 9, & 10 (2pm). Lissner Hall, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 430-3308.

Club Rendez-Vous

Join stalwart BAR columnist and reigning Polk Gulch socialite Sweet Lips in celebrating her 78th Birthday! Let Lips give you gay galoots a big fat smooch! In the spirit of holiday kisses, lipstick-red attire is requested (no one turned away for lack of lip gloss). Catering by Dennis Tyler. 1-6pm. 1312 Polk St. (at Bush). Info: 673-7934; www.ClubRendez-Vous.com

Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," a drag cabaret hosted by Kristy Cruise, former Grand Duchess of San Francisco. No cover. Shows at 10pm & midnight. 133 Turk St. (at Taylor). Info: 441-2922; www.sfdrag.com

Sun 3

SF Art Institute

SF Cinematheque presents "Between Visions: An Intermedia Commentary," a program of works exploring the borders between cinema and poetry, featuring poets Lyn Hejinian and Leslie Scalapino reading from their collaborative poem, Sight, a book-length work that "argues that the moment of coming to see is active and dialogic" (Hejinian). Filmmaker Konrad Steiner will unveil his new work, Bum Series, which as filmed and edited to a reading from Scalapino's poem Bum. With screenings also of Peter Hutton's lucidly photographed landscape film, New York Portrait: Chapter II, and Keewatin Dewdney's 1967 film the Maltese Cross Movement. \$7 (\$4 students/seniors). SFAI, 800 Chestnut St. Info: 558-8129.

Mon 4

Herbst Theatre

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents "Help is on the Way for the Holidays," featuring a stellar lineup of talent, including Sharon McNight, Wesla Whitfield, Paula West, Bruce Vilanch, Val Diamond, Samantha Samuels, Debby Boone, Kenny Mazlow, Street Sounds, Jane Olivro, Toni Tonnelle and The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. With gala reception for host-level ticket holders. A benefit for PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Program at Children's Hospital, Oakland, and the Youth Education Program at New Conservatory Theatre Center. \$35-\$50 (concert only). Host level begins at \$100. Doors open 6:30pm for silent auction; 7:30pm performance; 10pm gala reception in the Green Room. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 273-1620; www.richmondermet.org

Theatre Rhinoceros

The Half Baked Players (The Duboce Triangle) and The Playwrights Foundation present a staged reading of "Weekend at the Boof & Poof," a new musical comedy by Garret Jon Groenewald and John Morace. \$10 suggested. 8pm. 2940 16th St. Tix: 864-6347.

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase" hosted by Lisa Guldig, with David Guiney, Ken Miller, Reanne Roads, Geoffrey Douglas, Robert Mac, Daniel Packard, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Scott Wells & Dancers twist and turn in "One Fell Swoop"

Urban licks

Urban culture provides an endless array of themes for up-to-the-moment choreographers, and skateboarding presents the ultimate in graceful athletic possibilities with inherent crash appeal. Scott Wells, who has been creating dances in this town for a long while, surely knows the rhythm of the streets here, the way sleek, sexy skateboarders surf nimbly in and out, under and over everything, ever engrossed in their own private universes of daredevilry — cars, peds, and mainstream culture be damned. Not to tap that source of material would be a crime, though how it's tapped could be criminal, too, depending on the handling. Then again, it could be a brilliant coup. Art is, after all, unpredictable, and taking risks is what Scott Wells & Dancers are all about.

It's not a huge stretch of artistic imagination for a choreographer to conceive bringing the skateboarder element in off the streets and onto the stage, as Wells is preparing to do with "One Fell Swoop," a dance energized by the anarchic lifestyle/sport. The daily ballet we see all around us on concrete and asphalt is constant reminder of the dizziness of life and its stimulating surprises. Who hasn't thought of devoting a dance to skateboarders? They're un-self-conscious purveyors of public eroticism.

The devil is in the details, as they say, and it will take a devilish amount of talent and focus to not only keep this show from being banal — a groping for relevance by copping obvious symbols of defiance — but to lift it into the realm of high art versus carnival showmanship. Many a middling choreographer might achieve only the latter, but Wells is a good bet to do better; if anyone in town can take the rough 'n' tumble game and give it meaning, Wells can.

For the city that gives us the X-Games, where extreme is the operative word, it makes perfect choreographic sense to grab young audiences and their disposable bucks by designing a vehicle for skateboarding dancers. Let's hope Wells does the rebels proud. ▼

Scott Wells & Dancers perform *One Fell Swoop: The Art of Skateboarding* at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. (at 17th St.) Dec. 7-9 and 14-16 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 10 & 17 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 & \$20. Call 621-7297.



Peter Whitehead plays instruments of his designs at ODC Theater. See Thurs.



Sleeping Beauty, acrylic on velvet, part of "Snap! Shots," photo-surrealistic painting on velvet by Laura Hazlett at Jock McDonald Film Studio, 1417 15th St. at Folsom. The opening reception takes place Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tue 5

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus, a 40-voice ensemble directed by Joseph Jennings, presents the first of a series of "Candlelight Concerts" for the holiday season, including inspiring music from a variety of cultures and time periods. The chorus invites everyone to experience the transforming power of choral music in this season of togetherness and spiritual regeneration. The GGMC is dedicated to giving voice to the gay community with a repertoire that draws on the rich traditions of male choral singing. \$15. 8pm. Also on Dec. 9, 10 (3pm) & 12. 3281 16th St. Tix at A Different Light Bookstore or phone 668-GGMC. Info: www.ggmc.org

Wed 6

The Brava Theater Center

Opening night: Brava! for Women in the Arts inaugurates its new theater space with "Belén — A Book of Hours," a Mabou Mines production directed by Ruth Maleczek, featuring Mexican actress Jesusa Rodriguez and Argentine-born composer Liliana Felipe, with poet/lyricist Catherine Sasanov and designer Julie Archer. The story evokes the complex and troubled history of Recogimiento Belén, a Catholic sanctuary for single women, founded in 1683, where life became like prison for the women, who weren't allowed to leave. \$18-\$28. 8pm Wed.-Sun., with 4pm Sun. matinee. Thru Dec. 17. 2789 24th St. Tix from City Box Office, 392-4400.

Venue 9

The innovative women's choral group Esther, formed in 1998 by musical friends Beth Custer and Kathy Kennedy, presents their latest concert, a wacky range of choral works including Sudanese Gamelan pieces, contemporary classical, jazz, Brazilian, and whatever strikes their female fancy. This concert is dedicated to the anniversary of the tragic December 6, 1990 event at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal when 14 women in an engineering class were shot down by Marc Lepine for being "feminists." 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000/www.ft-loose.com

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater

Smuin Ballets/SF presents "The Christmas Ballet, 2000 Edition" directed and choreographed by Michael Smuin. The program's first half showcases classical ballet style, while the second half displays Smuin's Tony Award-winning Broadway style of choreography. \$30-\$40. 8pm. Thru Dec. 30. 700 Howard Street. Tix/info: 978-2787; www.smuinballets.com

Thu 7

The Women's Building

"Circuit Time," a community forum on dancing and partying as safely as possible, sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project in conjunction with BarsTo-Clubs.com, DanceSafe.org, Gus Presents, the Harm Reduction Coalition, klubz.com, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and other organizations. "Come celebrate the pulsating pleasures of Club and Circuit scenes and

talk about how partying affects our lives, sex and community. Share your own experiences and strategies with other club kids. Raffle and door prizes, including free CDs and passes to Gus Presents SuperBall. Free. 8-10pm. 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Info: www.stopaids.org

Modern Times Bookstore

Reading & booksigning with contributors to Word of Mouth: An Anthology of Gay American Poetry, featuring Dan Bellm, Tom Carey, Justin Chin, Thom Gunn, D.A. Powell, and Aaron Shurin. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 282-9246/www.mtbs.com

Metropolitan Community Church

"Resurrection Bingo" with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and their jingling balls. Add to your pile of holiday loot with cash prizes or a brand new television. It's a night of antics, entertainment, and prizes (up to \$200!). \$12 admission. 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: 552-0220; www.TheSisters.org

Under One Roof

"7th Annual Wine Tasting and Sale," with all proceeds of wine sales going to benefit the Napa Valley HIV Network and Sonoma County Food for Thought, and all other proceeds distributed to more than 50 Northern California AIDS service organizations. Guests will have the opportunity to sample many of the world's fine wines, accompanied by selected gourmet foods, while browsing the fabulous selection of holiday gift items. 5:30-9pm. 549 Castro St. Info: 503-2300.

ODC Theater

Peter Whitehead performs "The Mission is Not Impossible," original songs on handmade instruments. Using "found" materials as disparate as skis, bicycle parts, tree branches, garden rakes and cacti, Whitehead fashions his own orchestra, combining sculpture and music. In this tribute to the Mission District where he has lived for 15 years since moving to the City from London, Whitehead uses his original music and instruments to address issues of gentrification, the struggles of immigrants, and the displacement of artists, as well as capturing much of the cultural flavor. His goal is to retain a positive outlook in a difficult place at a difficult time. \$12. 8pm. 3153 17th St. Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org

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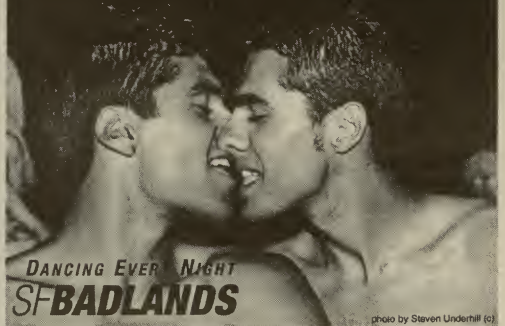


Tarek Khan as Phillip (seated, holding) and Teli Cardaci as Joshua play disciples in *Corpus Christi* at New Conservatory Theatre. See Friday.

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By phone: 415.668.GGMC
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Back to the future

Dance-Along Nutcracker 2000

by Maureen Bogues

When a dancer waddles up to you in a silver Hershey's Kiss costume and proclaims, "This year, I'm a robot," it can only mean one thing: the nutty, so-fun-it-should-be-illegal *Dance-Along Nutcracker* is back.

Last year's Hershey's Kisses (which glided around on office chairs in an elaborate *Swan Lake* dance) have become this year's lumpy robots (some on inline skates), who square off against a clump of aliens in a sequence from *Dance-Along Nutcracker 2000: Into Outer Space* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on this Saturday and Sunday, December 2 & 3.

Carolyn Carvajal, the robot in question, along with Dudley Brooks — both professional choreographers — design the movement for the show's *esprit de corps* dance troupe, Cheer San Francisco, a semi-pro cheer/stunt/dance team.

Carvajal, who spent 29 years in the San Francisco Opera Ballet, teaches and choreographs all over the city. This is her fourth year with the *Dance-Along*.

"These guys are great to work with," she said of the Cheer squad. "They come with their own bag of tricks."

She, like Brooks, loves the zaniness of the event.

"It's one of the most completely fun things there is," said Brooks, co-founder and co-director of Run For Your Life!...It's a Dance Company! He also appears (for seven years, so far) as Dr. Drosselmeyer in the Peninsula Ballet Theater's traditional performance of *The Nutcracker*.

He and Carvajal, in addition to dancing in each other's pieces in the *Dance-Along*, collaborate on the Noh puppet character Stumpy, in which she is the face and ballerina toes, and he provides the arms.

In spite of the fact that, ahem, some homosexual men are ballet fans, this is not a showcase for the muscled men in tights or the tiny ballerinas they hoist.

Stumpy will dance "The Blue Danube" upon the moon.

Brooks said the space theme takes him back to his childhood.

"I'm at an age where I can remember when sci-fi was something that only weird geeks were interested in," he said. "Now it's mainstream. By making [the show] retro, we're right back to when sci-fi was low-budget."

And that appeal spans the decades.

Tutu much

This year's event goes back to the future by paying homage to the giddy nostalgia of grade B sci-fi films, featuring a space-age Dorothy (Judy Garland impersonator Kate Botello in silver lamé frock, carrying a robotic Toto), *Star Wars*-inspired aliens, and other retro goodies. Interspersed amid all this space-age chaos are the dances of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday ballet, to which



The *Dance-Along Nutcracker*, clockwise from bottom: Jacqueline, Kate Botello, Ed Nolen, Cheer SF's Liz Breen & Kevin Ryken, Dudley Brooks (alien), Carolyn Carvajal, and conductor Jadine

everyone, and they mean everyone, is invited to get up and shake a tutu — bring your own, or rent one for a nominal fee.

The space theme might seem way out, but actually, it's not much different from E.T.A. Hoffman's *The Nutcracker*, a 19th-century fable in which we are trans-

off," Louie said. "We're talking about stereotypes, about ballet being for fags."

Anyone who has been to the *Dance-Along* knows that in spite of the fact that, ahem, some homosexual men are ballet fans, this is not a showcase for the muscled men in tights or the tiny ballerinas they hoist. No, indeed. It is an all-ages blowout that provides some of the silliest, most uninhibited holiday fun for everyone from toddlers to grandparents.

"We see all types of people come to the show, and they have the time of their lives," Louie said.

Botello, as Garland, will lead the audience through the many alien worlds, capping her journey with "I'm Going Home," from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The band, in addition to performing Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, will play music from 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, and other sci-fi and pop or classical favorites. Wes Asakawa will also perform on theremin, the magnetic-wave instrument made famous in Ed Wood's silly horror films.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for Performing Arts, which serves the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

Dance-Along Nutcracker 2000: Into Outer Space will be performed Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. The Gala Night Blast with holiday reception is \$35; afternoon shows are \$17 general admission/\$12 children and seniors. Box office: (415) 978-2787. For more information: (415) 255-1355. ▼

Queer As Folk

◀ Arts cover

just in Episode One!

Straight date

Episodes One, Two and Three include wonderful stories ranging from an extended sequence in which Michael (having caught the eye of a female co-worker at his department store) pretends to be straight to go out with her and other straight co-workers, to a deftly handled episode in which Ted finally snares a one-night stand that goes wretchedly, horrifically wrong.

Also, Brian snags some married meat in his ad agency's bathroom and, while trying again at a local pool hall, discovers the lengths to which Justin will really go just to sink his young — but very pretty and extremely tense — claws into Brian's psyche. Since Brian's about to turn the horrific age of 30, he's having a little difficulty maintaining the emotional distance for which he is renowned.

The Showtime *QAF* does indeed live up to its British original in its overwhelming roster of gay characters (there's hardly a straight person in sight, and Debbie doesn't really count) and stories, but is the show really, as *The Advocate* recently put it, every bit as "unblinking?" That depends on how one defines "blink." And in a few subtle but very important ways, Showtime's *QAF* does just that.

The UK *QAF* derived its sensational reception from two things: its depiction of sex between an adult gay man (Stuart, on whom the character Brian is based) and an underage 15-year-old (Nathan, on whom the 17-year-old Justin is drawn.) The British series had a breathtaking visual frankness that, at times, bordered on porn. (And let me be clear: I think that's a good thing.)

Depicting Nathan as a 15-year-old newcomer left no question for British audiences that Stuart was treading dangerously close to statutory rape. British queers have long been witness to searing public debate about the age of consent laws in the UK: Heterosexual teenagers can consent to sex at age 16, but, by law, homosexual teens cannot consent until they reach age 18. To depict a 15-year-old queer was dicey enough, but to make him sexually active pushed the country's buttons *en masse*. The UK series was broadcast on Channel Four, that country's equivalent of our broadcast networks.

While executives at Showtime are surely hoping otherwise, cable shows in the US have never come close to the mass reach of the networks. So it's especially odd that, given Showtime's claim to contro-



Emmett (Peter Paige), Michael (Hal Sparks) and Ted (Scott Lowell) in Showtime's *Queer As Folk*

versy, the series' creators felt compelled to make Justin a full two years older here. I'm sure I don't know what about age 15 scared them, but making a teenager closer to adulthood certainly doesn't up the boldness meter.

Sex screens

While the first sex scene between Brian and Justin is sexy indeed, I dislike the way the production camouflages subsequent sex scenes by using a series of space dividers in Brian's loft as visual screens that block things we might otherwise expect to see. This editorial device becomes supremely annoying. The original *QAF* never put walls between sex and the viewer. I count this as a blink, a big one.

The third American episode ends as Brian, having snagged not one but two hunky boys, dances a disco sandwich as Michael and Emmett look on in disbelief. In the British original, Stuart promptly went home and had a ménage-a-trois, with the added titillation that he set up a video-camera to record the affair and all three watched the tape afterwards. When Nathan shows up at Stuart's flat the following morning, Stuart ditches his two hunks and dives in yet again to that teenage ass. Showtime's *QAF* adds the wonderful touch of Justin snaking his way onto the dance floor and interfering with Brian's intended romance. But where will they all go? Back to bed or to screen black? It remains to be seen where Showtime's *QAF* goes with this three-

way story-line, but I fear another blink.

Whatever one thinks about this version's frankness or lack thereof, inventive writing helps the show's humor swing far and wide. There are digs at the competition (*ER* and *Dawson's Creek* are skewered). The show's music is extremely well-chosen and placed, not only in the club scenes, but in the least expected places. Covers of classics like "The Only Way Is

Up" and "Let's Hear It for the Boy" give a familiar but fresh feel to the disco mayhem marvelously captured in each episode.

Among the most pleasant surprises is *QAF*'s treatment of lesbians Lindsay and Melanie, who have far more screentime and substantially drawn characters than their British counterparts. They quarreled a little (which had me worried we were going to see lesbian dysfunction yet again), but

then they kissed and made up. And they kissed and made out, which included some very dicey nipple-play. In three entire episodes, however, the girls didn't get a complete love scene. This, too, could end up a blink: I hope the show will allow these committed women lovers to be as sexually active as are its bachelor boys.

Overall, *QAF* displays a bold courage that I deeply admire. If there's any desire on our part to see really queer TV, we simply have to turn on and tune into this show. The ability of our supporters and our artists to tell queer stories and get them seen depends on it.

As Michael says of his friend, Emmett, a flaming queen who knows how to be queer at every waking turn: "It takes real courage in this day and age to be a real queen in a land of commoners." With its first three episodes of *QAF*, Showtime has made its opening bid for the crown. ▼

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Brian (Gale Harold) and Justin (Randy Harrison) in Showtime's *Queer As Folk*

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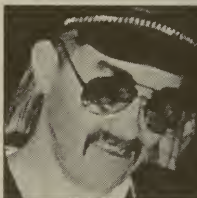
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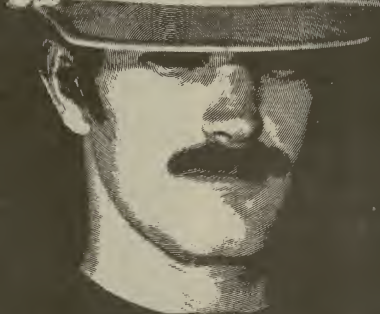
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Toronto shines again

by Mister Marcus

He has the fuzziest buns this side of the Beanie Baby Bear factory; dazzling white teeth peek out from a natural Greek tan; his smile would melt the meanest Terminator creature — and he is Mr. Toronto Leatherman 2001, Peter Theodoropoulos.

Mr. Toronto Leatherman, Inc., under the directorship of Duncan MacLachlan with some 120-plus dedicated volunteers, pulled off yet another scintillating competition last weekend with a show that included a meet and greet, a hospitality suite, a vendor's market, a sit-down banquet, a victory brunch and a magnificent show that starred six hunky men who gave the 600-plus audience a thrilling evening at the Docks on Saturday night.

The first runner-up was Remi Collette and the 2nd runner-up was Mark Henderson. The other contestants were Chris Alger, Tony Wojnowski and Steve Stryker. They faced judges Stevan de Castro (chief judge), Lenny Brobert, Frank Nowicki, IML Mike Taylor, Ken Gibson, Jack Macness and Raymond Bakey.

The show was emceed by former MLT James Anderson and Crystal Lite and their witty banter throughout kept the audience in stitches. The spectacle opened with leather-swathed male dancers, and featured diva Kathy Thompson as Bette Midler — with the six contestants thrown in to make it truly spectacular.

The show moved swiftly and without incident, with flawless lighting and sound, and the male next page ►



Meet the winners in Toronto: From left are second runner-up Mark Henderson; Mr. Toronto Leatherman 2001 Peter Theodoropoulos, and first runner-up Remi Collette. Remi was also voted the Leather Fellowship award by all the other contestants.



Canadian Bacon on the hoof!: The six men who competed for MLT 2001 in jock judging are (from left) Chris Alger, Remi Collette, Tony Wojnowski, Mark Henderson, Steve Stryker and Peter Theodoropoulos (the winner!).

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, November 30

Stop AIDS Project presents their "LeatherFuck" event tonight at 1900, for men who want to explore bondage. To sign up and for location, call 575-0165 or email to mike@stopaids.org. As far as I know, it's free and your chance to learn what's hot and what's knot!

Friday, December 1

Today is the absolute deadline for the \$95 Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend package taking place in Washington, DC in January. Do it now!

Saturday, December 2

San Franciscans MC celebrate their 30th anniversary at the Eagle Tavern, 1700-2000. Admittance is by invitation in hand or wearing your club overlay. Congratulations!

The Red Witch (Sweet Lips) celebrates her 78th birthday at the Club Rendez-vous on Polkstrasse from 1300 til you get tired of seeing red. Catered by Dennis "Curry and Flurry" Tyler.

If you find yourself west of Van Ness Avenue, check out Mr. No. California Drummer Rod Wood's AEF benefit at Daddy's, from 1600-2000, where he's staging this "Dating Gayme" thing. You could end up with a date with a leather title holder. It's \$7.

Sunday, December 3

Defenders MC host the beer/soda bust at the Eagle, from 1500-1800, for \$8. With food, Santa, and the usual boozing and cruising.

The Leather Forum of SF host their annual Christmas party at the Powerhouse, from 1800-2100, with a turkey dinner and hosted cocktails! Admittance by club overlay or invitation in hand.

Mon. & Tues., December 4 & 5

Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" Christmas show at the Plush Room, with \$25 advance tickets to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund (\$30 at the door). This event raised \$7,500 last year and they want to double it.

Wednesday, December 6

Bare Chest Calendar 2001 guys will be autograph-

ing the new calendar at Under One Roof this evening so get one or more signed and send to your friends back in the provinces.

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros explores "Toys for a Bargain: Shopping at your local hardware store." About finding cheap everyday household items for your dungeon. Hosted by Jim Perry. Call 551-0871 for details. It's free!

Thursday, December 7

Danny "The Grinch" Williams hosts the Big Basket contest at the Edge Bar tonight. Last chance to see bulges that may or may not deliver. Last one for this year, so it should be fun.

Saturday, December 9

Busy night all around. Pegasus Motorcycle Owners Club (MOC) ride en masse to the motorcycle show; Alameda County Leather Corps 7th annual Santa's Slave Auction at Rumors in Hayward. Can you imagine Den Calkins cleaning your dungeon up after an orgy? Leather title holders' services for the right bidder(s). from 1500-1800.

The music industry's answer to AIDS tonight at Club Townsend it's "LifeBeat" surprises as stars of rock, disco, salsa, waltz, C/W and rap gather to raise thousands. Don't miss this one.

Omar Mosley and Don "Ho" Tse, les enfants terrible de cuir, host their annual Black Leather Christmas orgy at Casa Sanchez tonight, from 1800 to midnight. Always worth the \$15 donation to get in. Let me count the hangovers the next day from this one!

Sunday, December 10

GDI's host the Eagle's Sunday beer bust, from 1500-1800. As usual with the GDI's, no details at my deadline, but it's probably \$8 for beer/soda, food and guaranteed drag personalities.

The annual leather swap meet at the Women's Bldg., for \$5 and chances for bargains, followed by Fandango at Castlebar from 1830 to midnight.

Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear hosts a Real Men in Porn beer/soda bust at Daddy's from 1600-2000 for \$7 featuring comeback video actor Zak Spears and emceed by Lance and Will Clark. (What? No Frank Parker?). Tons of XXX videos to give away and all to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Better red than dead

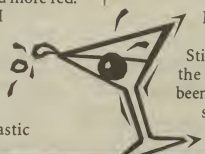
by Sweet Lips

The Club Rendez-Vous cordially invites one and all to attend my 78th (count 'em, 78 long years) Birthday Party on Saturday, December 2 from 1-6 p.m. The affair will feature Smirnoff cocktails and catering by Dennis ("Fickle Finger of Feta") Tyler. Red attire is requested. Hosts L. James and David Kapp have planned many surprises that even *moi* don't know about.

The very fabulous and very talented Empress Pat Montclair and Empress Marlena are putting this old broad together for the event — what a job that should be! Steve Suss and Don Sexton of Portland will be here for the festivities. Remember: red, red, and more red.

Bart Dreyer and I will be spending Dec. 7-11 in Portland to recover.

Little Corporal Mikey of Reflections has some fantastic Xmas decorations planned, according to Ray Carmona. Lips



Cocktail Hour



Staff of the Adobe Cafe in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

can't wait to see Mikey.

Yes, that was Art Stiles in the Club R-V the other day. He has been around 28 years and still puts up with me.

According to Dickie Deemer, who was just there, my favorite restaurant

in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the Adobe Café, has expanded and looks marvelous!

Lee Hartgrave, you have not had the last word! Remember, the BAR has been around successfully since April 1971, and I, Sweet Lips, was one of the very first writers here, and I'm still here! Later, Curly.

Hey Josh — you are really looking sexy lately. ▼

Out There

◀ page 26

Roman helmet that was gathering dust in the attic, for example; or better yet, the clueless collector whose presumed Tiffany lamp turns out to be an obvious repro.

Perhaps the oddest facet of this odd program is the presence of those twin appraisers, **Leigh** and **Leslie Keno**. It's not just their fanatic devotion to early American furniture design; and it's not just that we're quite smitten with their remarkable expertise — after all, OT has known a few antiques ourselves, usually named John. It's the Keno brothers' dueling queeny ejaculations that have won over OT: such as the time Leigh demanded, "Feel my heart, Leslie!" when a Queen Anne mahogany secretary bookcase sent his ticker a-palpitating. Out There can only conclude that they must have to be *there* for each other a lot.

Now the "treasure twins" have published their very own book, *Hidden Treasures, Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture* (with Joan Barzilay Freund; Warner Books). In it we can read all about the \$2.75 million Cadwalader easy chair those crazy Kenos found in a country day school, and the rare suite of preserved Newport furniture they uncovered in East Hampton.

This tale of hidden treasures has got us looking around this old trucker motel we call our office, and eyeing our desk set. What about if we sell it all off to the highest bidder, and throw in a few delivery trucks? Would we have to offer a "Hearst scholarship" to sweeten the pot?

Giving a fig

We continue to be fans of that peculiar institution known as British journalism. Recently Brit scribe **Peter Jones** reported in the *Spectator*, "**Susan Crosland** [who?] described the other week how that ace Lothario **Mr. Porfirio Rubirosa** [who?] made a subtle approach to her dressed in monogrammed underpants 'through which stood a donkey-style member.' This striking image would have warmed the hearts of Greeks and Romans. The



A wing and a prayer: "Falconeer," by Michael Childers

Athenian comedian **Aristophanes** (5th-century BC), whose vocabulary anyway was vast, went to town on this topic.

"Aristophanes refers to the male member as a tip, neck, finger, thing, flesh, skin, biggy, sinew, equipment, muscle, dried fig, fig petal, mallow stalk, acorn, chick-pea, barleycorn, alabaster pot, spear, peg, pole, ram, oar, goad, beam, punt-pole, bolt, handle, sword, spit-roast, axe, club, staff, top, token, seal, drill, thong, wing, tail, sparrow, various sorts of cake, foot, rope, lump and soup-ladle.

"Latin literature does not expand greatly on these, though 'betestitled lance' is a fine phrase, and Romans saw the possibilities of the male member and the bow. 'Stretching the bow-string' was a common image; **Ovid** suggests that **Penelope** was testing her suitors' sexual prowess when she asked them to string the bow, adding that it was made of 'horn.' Ploughshares and sickles, playing the lyre, handling the tiller, sinking the anchor, snakes and cabbage stalks all add to the merriment (but not, interestingly, cucumbers)." ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ page 40

pulchritude paraded on stage was more than anyone could hope for.

Mr. Leatherman Toronto scores at the top of the long list of leather title contests. It gets better and better every year, and in your wildest imagination, you will probably never be able to predict what they'll do next year to top this year's great effort. For instance, the MLT title belt was retired and replaced by a leather "shawl" for this and succeeding winners. MLT, Inc.

president John Burch explained that a shawl indicates "service," so they chose a shawl over a sash.

Oh, it was grand all right! VIP weekend ticket holders were given 5 star treatment at lavish cocktail parties, a magnificent dinner for outgoing MLT eStevan de Castro at Gatsby's, one of the best restaurants in all Ontario. Special shuttle buses, private coat check facilities, and a VIP lounge all came with the package. MLT, Inc. has a lot of class and because of the friendliness and top notch efficiency, this event brings people back year after year. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Chuck! We Met @ Steamworks
It was my birthday. "Wow!" Please call if you'd like to get together! Really can't stop thinking about you. ☎ 72537

8th & Market 10/25 U-White,
Grey/bm hair, bm shirt & Khakis. Me- blu jeans & blu sweater. Walked down 8th too shy to talk, wanna meet? ☎ 72569

Embarcadero Center 10/22 Tom
You: Tom from Richmond area, work for Big 5 firm in communications. Me: Tom too! You buying gift for niece. Would love to talk more. ☎ 72540

"Night Child!!!"
Incredible interaction at "Tuesday Suck" 10/10. You're amazing. I want to know more of you. We stared deeply & touched subtly but with power & intensity. Rarely have I found anyone to match me on that level, nor anyone as delightful as you. Please call. Whatever! ☎ 72541

Cute Curly Haired Dark Preppie Boy
Of Wh/Indian/Med/Latin looks? Sometimes preppie BM. We tend to see each other a lot in the Castro, B of A, me at bus stop, couple of times De tour. Why don't we just say hello for starters? ☎ 72594

Eric In The Edge On Halloween
Uncle Sam wants you. ☎ 72599

Handsome Asian Civic Cent 10/27
Like finding a needle in a haystack. Asian gent Civic Center 10/27 approx. 8pm with an incredible walk. Interested in meeting? ☎ 72600

Thai House On Market Fri 11/10

Your smile made for difficult dining, maybe next time we can be seated at the same table? ☎ 72615

Rick On Baker St.
Congrats on getting reunited with your darlin' cat. Enjoy our conversation over Bandit and A.J. Give a call and introduce the cats to each other. ☎ 72568

Rick @ Lonestar Sat 11-4-00 PM
Shy @ the bar? How about dinner? Or a drink? No prize tickets needed! ☎ 72596

Safeway On Market 10/22 9am
You: GAM approached me & said I was handsome. You wore a Hawaiian creations sweatshirt. Me: GWM with thick moustache. Totally flattered & temporarily mute. Would like to meet & talk. ☎ 72573

Handsome Gent Castro 10/14
You: Black shirt, glasses, s&p hair walking around with friend. First spotting: Different light. Second: through Tolly's window while speaking to friend. Wanted to say more than "Hi". Can we? ☎ 72538

Aquamarine Colt
33 bus stop @ 18th/Castro, 10/12, 3p.m. You: Wool-worthy dark good looks. Me: Blond, moustache, sunglasses. Rendered stupid by desire. Wanna rectify? ☎ 72570

"L" Taraval 10/14 Noonish
You: Black hair/goatee, with black bag over shoulder, black note book; green t-shirt, jeans. Me: black shorts & blue long sleeve t-shirt, sandals, left ankle bracelet, s/p hair moustache. Please call! Bernardo ☎ 72571

Lafayette/Park 10/12/10:30pm
Chris met. You: BM, only 3 wks. in SF. Me: W/ beard. We went to my place. You wanted to please me- you did, and more. Please call. ☎ 72572

Halloween Saturday Night
You are White, I am Asian. We smiled at each other while watching the cheerleaders. Would like to meet. ☎ 72574

ISO Michael 10/27 Metro
Your table was next to ours, me in blue short sleeve. As you left, you stopped and was introduced to our table with 8 people. ☎ 72593

Jack London Square Sunday 11/5
Barnes & Noble coffee shop @ 2:00pm. You cute, red hair w/calculus book. Me: worried about backwards time travel. I felt a connection, did you? Please call. ☎ 72595

Mint Bar "Blue Shirted Flasher"
You flashed me at door, on Halloween. Me blonde, bearded vampire in white & silver. My photo didn't come out, can I get a 2nd shot? ☎ 72597

Walking Down 18th Sun 10/29
We walked past each other, me: gray shirt, jeans. You: baseball cap, blue sweatshirt, backpack. We looked back a couple of times. Hope our paths cross again. ☎ 72598

David Designer From Oakland
Martunis Monday 11/6. I was going to dinner with my boyfriend, you with your brother. I am now single. Wish we had talked more. Call me. ☎ 72613

"Got Candy?"
You: Black guy riding 38 Geary 11-12 5:30pm. We both got off at Presidio. Looked for you and lost you. Me: blue backpack. Call me! ☎ 72614

Macy's Stonetown 10/22
You: very sexy man, customer service, wearing shorts, goatee, tattoo on right arm. Me & my husband buying watchband. We exchanged smiles & spoke briefly. Coffee? Dinner? Wanna get together? ☎ 72539

Glances At The Rhino 10/15
You: tall Asian w/ khaki cap; me white in purple shirt. Exchanged glances across the audiences, waves after the show, matinee on 10/15. ☎ 72616

Gdiking Guy Driving Black Jetta
Wednesday 11/8 at 4:45pm north bound on 19th Ave. Short beard beautiful smile. Me, flat top, driving silver Daihatsu, racing thru traffic. Call me! ☎ 72617

Handsome Grayhair Man At Zuni
11/9, 6pm, across from each other in bar. You met friends for dinner. I met friends for drinks. We exchanged glances, and smiled when you left after dinner. I think you're sexy. Dinner at Zuni sometime? ☎ 72618

Lyle And Evan Burritos On 24th St
Hey buddy- enjoyed our time, let's get together. ☎ 72633

VA Hospital Cowboy
I saw you in lobby we nodded to each other. I'd really like to talk interested? Call. ☎ 72634

Dore Castro St. Tues 11/14 9pm
We chatted- would like to continue conversation and catch up. Please call, Bill. ☎ 72635

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Attractive Castro Professional
Very bright, humorous, playful, sentimental, world traveller, cook, gardener, loves to eat out, sexually versatile and hot, healthy HIV+, seeking LTR with similar man. ☎ 72542

Friends Or More
GWM 50, HIV- 6' 175# looks for same, not overweights 30-60 for friends or monogomous LTR. Like smoke ND. I'll respond. ☎ 72543

Cute, Tall, 30s, Ciencaut, Pos GWM
6'2", 175 brown/blue. Versatile/bottom seeking cute younger hung top boy to hang out, sleep in, cuddle, watch movies, enjoy fires, eat like kings and fuck like rabbits. ☎ 72544

Baby Bear Seeks Playmate
Me: 48, 5'9", 180lbs. baby bear build, versatile furry, clean and sober. You: versatile, mostly top, drug free, horny, well hung a plus. ☎ 72545

Life Is To Be Shared
Prof. GWM 5'10"-145# in-shape 59, thinks like 40's, looking to share a great life with person who's at ease with himself 40+ who has style & is caring. ☎ 72546

How About Some Bump & Grind?
GBM top 50 needs GWM bottom 50ish for hot sex and hanging out at my place, must be beefy and enjoy taking it. Smoke and aroma A+. ☎ 72547

Young Guy Seeks Relationship
Shy young cute guy desires relationship with old gentlemen- serious only. ☎ 72575

Fat Is Beautiful
GAM 50's, 5'8", 125 looking for yng/old fat guy to pen-pals, exch, pic, w/possible lifetime partner. Pls reply w/your email or mailing address. ☎ 72576

The Country & The Magic Touch 1,2,3
HIV-, 45yrs, GWM, 195lbs, 6'3", tall, med build bright beard bottom. Sks: top hung attractive romantic height weight proportionate male for special rel. - Song "Mark Wills-Back at one" smoke open minded & spirited J.D. RWC ☎ 72577

Nice Bottom For Nice Top
GWM, 40yo.o. wants to meet intelligent top for friendship and more. I am apprentice so be my sweet mentor. ☎ 72578

Asian Master/ 5'6", 140lbs 39yrs
Seeking young clean shaven slim to trim submissive White slave boy toy for topping, pain, pleasure, casual. dating. ☎ 72579

GWM Seeks GAM For Possible LTR
GWM 30ish looks 20ish very attractive, not into clubs seeks skinny nerd 20-30ish attractive, intelligent GAM. Enjoy fun and romantic eyes. You won't be sorry. No heavy drinkers, drugs. ☎ 72580

Maybe LTR
Oral and active, into outdoors and cozy nights, good music. 6', 190 HIV-, over 60. Seeking oral and cuddly 45-70, for fun, feeling LTR. ☎ 72581

Need A Caring Uncle Or Friend?
Sincere WM, young 48, tall, trim, HIV negative seeks rather slim/skinny Asian, White or Latino male 18-38 for nephew, friend or lover. Movies, dinner, out exercise, snuggling, massage. ☎ 72582

I Know You're Out There!
Handsome, healthy, HIV-, successful, 40-something, muscular guy, 5'10.5", 165lbs, who enjoys life with comic intensity. Looking for someone my age or younger for passionate relationship. ☎ 72583

Seeks Asian Male
Attractive blonde college student 24 into volleyball and kickboxing. 5'11", 160# smooth chest. Bottom ☎ 72584

Sexual Craving...
Mature male will submit to dominant male. Is obedient and eager to please. ☎ 72585

GWM 31, 5'4" ISO Funny, Caring
Professional type for LTR. ☎ 72586

HIV+ Black Male Or Latino
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44yrs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same, I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. S 72601

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Seeking Asian Boyfriend

Muscular GWM, 43, in very good shape is wishing to date a serious, in-shape Asian, 25-50. No games or B.S. Please only serious minded long term. ☎ 72602

East Bay Latino ISO Black Male

Attractive, 35, 5'9", 160, HIV-, smooth olive skin, youthful face, healthy lifestyle. ISO Black male, masculine, in good shape, top, under 45 for dating or possible relationship. ☎ 72603

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?

Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72619

Asian Guys In Stockings

Lingerie and heels turn me on! Butch WM, 40, 6ft 2 in, 200lbs, seeks HIV neg dream girl with wardrobe for dating, safe fun. Be sweet, sincere. ☎ 72620

Classy Hndsm GWM 36 Seeks TLR

Me: attractive/muscular 6'1", 180, 44" chest, 32" waist, HIV neg bartender/student, tired of bar scene, loves music U-drk hair, drk eyes, warm heart, attractive, witty. ☎ 72621

Please...

Fuck me hard, then deep your beautiful cock into my hot throat for romance with White top 30-50. Scorpio, Cancer, Aries preferred. Thank you. ☎ 72636

Shy Cute German 34yo Top Artist

Blond, blue hairy, 6'1", 160 uncut. ISO crazy-like Asian, Black, Latino, or other for unlimited fun! Horny? Don't wait call me now. ☎ 72637

Bi-Monthly Visitor

Slim masculine WM 43 would like to meet the same or younger for talks, walks, films, meals, and naked intimacy, on weekends. ☎ 72638

"I Need Your Vote(s)!"

To win Bay Area best cocksucker crown (I'm ex-captain U.S. Olympic cocksucking team!) Knock-sox-off demos for you buddies: let's get it/them, out/up/off! ☎ 72639

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Voicesex Roleplay Dirtytalking Bi male loves female voice, wishing sex talk and role playing on phone from nice to naughty to nasty, your choice. Tell me all your dirty stuff secrets, confidentially. ☎ 72482

Opposites Attract

Masculine, big-dick Italian top gets hard for in-shape, small dick, bubble butt, bottom-boys, any race, under 40. ☎ 72548

Str8? Gr8!

Getting your best yet won't turn you gay! You'll love shooting your max for creative cocks sucking that won't quit. Uncut a plus. (sweatball) licked off! ☎ 72549

Love To Suck

GWM 50 non gym 6', 190lbs loves to suck dick any race/age 7" or better. Lay back. Downtown location. ☎ 72550

Adventure Cuming Gr Tampa Fla.

GWM 37 br/bl mustache goatee 5'8", 30, HIV+ healthy 8cut cock. All answered. ☎ 72551

Cuddly Fit Latin Bottom

Sought by attractive, fit, healthy POZ WM, 160, 6ft, 45yo. You're affectionate, fit, under 45. Your place a big plus for safe hot time. ☎ 72552

"Got Cheese!"

GWM 50, 6' loves man smells any age, race. 7" or more. Long over hang a real plus. ☎ 72553

I'm The Pepper, You're The Salt

Horny 47 year old East Bay top enjoys seeing a light skinned oral expert down on my big thick chocolate stick. No voice mails, pagers or games please. ☎ 72554

You Never Be Disappointed!

Handsome sex great-shape beefy 30s GAM with talented deep-throat, sks HIV- thick & hung 8+ hot masculine muscular in-shape GWM/GBM for fun on a regular basis & friendship. ☎ 72555

Milkman Seeks A Good Gum-job

If you're a "tooth-less tiger" and can deep-throat a big plunger head, you might get more than you thought you would. 6', 42, 170lbs. of laid-back man. Long chewing sessions a plus! ☎ 72556

I Want To Taste Dark Meat

Bi, WM new to scene, curious to taste dark meat of older Black men (50's, 60's seniors)-clean and considerate please-no drugs or weirdos etc. Will serve you orally. ☎ 72557

Big Man For You

Hugs & kisses come first. LTR. Me: attractive oral-topman, 50, 6'5", 350lbs. You: attractive, GM, 21-40, slim. ☎ 72558

Handsome Hung Italian

Super endowed 10' seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72644

GWM 45 Looking To Meet Men

40+ for play & dating. Me 5'9" 180 med ok shape br br into feet & other oral you fun. Friendly with nice feet A+. ☎ 72559

GBM Needs A Top To Stay Warm

It's getting cold out and I need a man to keep me warm. I'm poz, 6ft, 210lbs, hairy. I'm easy going and looking for the same. ☎ 72587

Hairy Men Of Color

Hairy muscled GWM, 47, 5'8", 140, ISO muscled hairy-chested African American, Latino, Arab men for heavy pecwork, 69ing, and butt-banging, no LTR, poz, UB too. ☎ 72588

WM Needs Asian To Fuck My Face

Bi-curious WM seeks Asian to fulfill my fantasy- of your fast fucking my virgin throat concluding with my sucking your balls while you jo your load on my face. ☎ 72605

Hot Box For Hot Shots

Attractive 40-something Latino bottom guy wants to hook up with hung top guys for regular sex encounters. Let's be buddies. ☎ 72607

Swimmer Seeks Surfer To Dive

For pearls, dine on oysters, pry tight claims. Spandex swimsuit vs. rubber wetsuit. Muscled & big kanuna A+. No sponges or shipwrecks. ☎ 72608

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top

38, 165lb, 6ft, smooth, masculine but submissive behind closed doors. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72623

"I Am One Of A Kind!"

My throat is like butter- deep throat-bottom, 37, tats, shaved head(-) 185lbs seeks masculine man to service(-). ☎ 72624

"Spank Me!" Cute Little Fratboy

24 needs over the knee action from dominant big brother or daddy. Gym body in the Castro. Bottom boy. ☎ 72625

ISO Poz Marin/Sonoma FuckBuddy

For fun or poss. ltr. 51yo GWM, 5'10", 160lbs, s/p buzz, mustache, uncut ISO earthy guy who enjoys vers. oral sex & fucking a hot bottom. ☎ 72626

Total Anal Bottom Bear

Caucasian, 49, stocky, 5'10", 195#, talented asshole for your fucking pleasure! Shaved head, hairy, beard on my belly-waiting for you to cum, on top of me! ☎ 72627

Asian Top

Sought by healthy, muscular, athletic, attractive poz GWM, 6', 165lb, 47yo. Safe only. Fun for sure. ☎ 72640

"Top, Wants To Be Topped!"

Blue collar masc WM 45 looks about 41, smooth, broad shoulders, must /Van Dyke side burns/ seeks very hairy slender to med/ build under 5'6" to take control. HIV- ☎ 72641

Bottom Hot Latino 30's Likes To

Suck a big dick, also get fucked. Redwood City area. Nice ass, nice legs. Please call me. ☎ 72642

Hot White Bottoms Need By

White top, 6'0", 56yrs old, drk brn hair, eyes glasses 9" dick, 160lbs. Want to fuck hot young White men under 40. Leave message. ☎ 72643

Beer Porno And BJ For Seniors.

Strip naked, kick-back and enjoy a drink and porno while masculine WM sucks your cock in return for your finishing by jacking off your hot load on my face. ☎ 72606

Take Off Ur Shirt & Breath Deep

Muscle guys 25-35 wanted for phy exam. His/Asian/ dk hair A+. Stress test & rectal exam. Must have nice musc. chest to listen to. Masc, blt, top DR, WM 40, 6', 180. ☎ 72604

Masculine Manpussy 4 Hung Tops

White male, 35, loves to party, seeks domination by 1 to 4 thick hung tops. Me, oral, versatile, in-shape, nice cock. Possible bondage dild0/FF. I love come. East Bay A+. ☎ 72622

Hot Cock And Ass 4 U

White versatile, E/B, slender, 5'8", 155, 50's HIV-, seeks tops with 6"+ and slender, hairless bottom, HIV-, safe sex, no drugs, any age, race or marital status. Asians A+. ☎ 72645

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Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 72561

Slave 4 Owner

This boy is a straight male slave seeking to serve as slave property. Please allow slave to serve. ☎ 72563

Raunchy Freaks

Sniff your ass hole, suck your egg hanging balls. Deep pump that ass of yours. Funky frik, jockeys exchange. You: 30 to 50, slim, good looking, discreet and enjoy it wet and natural. Latino, Black A+. Me: BM, 39, 6'1", 175lbs, 9'cut, and a freak. Lets do this. ☎ 72564

CBT Action Serious Toe-To-Toe

Handball play. In-shape GWM seeks all other challengers. ☎ 72562

Slave Training

Experienced, safe leather master in Oakland ISO submissive masculine boys for service. You be fit, under 45yo & eager. ☎ 72565

"Scat Motormouth!"

Skinhead wears ski-masks, derby jackets, Ben Davis- steel toe boots. Seeks chols and scat tops to feed me. ☎ 72566

Dominant Gentle Mature Men

WM 45, 6'160lbs, ISO dominant but gentle seniors who like lots of oral action. Beards, groups, non-buffed A+. Kinky, raunch optional but no pain, s&m, gay scene. ☎ 72567

Drag Queen Threesome Interlude

H bi-male, 52, ISO drag queens got my threesome: pluses: red heads, cigar-smokers, j/o, oral, 69, discreet. ☎ 72589

Enjoy Expert Urinal Service

Professional toilet seeks straights, bi, HIV- tops who desire kick back efficient service from a piss and cum hungry healthy bottom man smells a plus-no perfume accepted. ☎ 72590

Huge Nipples

Let me pull, suck, pump, and tie your fat meaty tits. I'm sexy horny and will make you crazy with pleasure and your nipples freaky big. ☎ 72591

Palo Alto GAM 43, 190, 5'11" Sks

Hairy chested guys under 48, 2b stroked with nipple play. UB on the Peninsula. Will drive to you. HIV- and friendly. ☎ 72592

Erotic S/M Bondage CBT TT Etc.

Cute couple, Asian/White in 30's, gym toned bodies, want to meet couples or single who interested in getting together to play. Call to discuss... ☎ 72609

Knocked Around And Bruised

And humiliated and degraded. That's what this slim healthy 58-years old needs from in-charge guy. You come and I take it and don't come. ☎ 72610

Body Shaving

Part or complete your limits respected free no money exchanged either way. Just enjoyment. Concord area leave message. ☎ 72560

"Spread That Ass!"

GWM 38yo, 158#, 5'10", uncut, low hanging balls, red hair, ISO butt to eat and piss to drink. Kinky man seeking others. ☎ 72631

Your Hair Is Blond, Your Eyes

Are blue, your ass is smooth, I'll kiss it for you. Wear boots and jeans, I'll lick them clean. ☎ 72648

Servant...

Polite, courteous man is dutiful and eager to please a masterful man without question or exception. ☎ 72630

S&M Top, Bear, 50, Trains Boys!

You: 20's, in-shape, any race. Pluses: shorts, swimmers, gymnast, Asian, novice. Bondage, TT, CBT, hotwax, spankings, shaving. Limits respected & expanded. Take it like a man! ☎ 72629

Smooth Submissive Wanted

SWM, 38, blonde, smooth, gym-toned in Pacific Heights, seeks submissive, smooth, boyish boyfriend, 18-28, for pussyboy sex slave, verbal abuse and humiliation. No ballroom dancing. ☎ 72646

F.F My Little Ass

Bi WM needs be F.F slow live in Woodland. I'm HIV- very clean and great cocksucker. Like S/M, toys, video's, aroma/herbs, age/race open. Drive up or take a train!! Serious only. ☎ 72628

Daytime-Asshole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 72647

COUPLES**Oreo Sandwich????**

Gdkg, prof'l, GBM in city, 38, skg friendship & fun w/ hot White couple. Me: 5'9", 175, 42c, 31w, clean-cut/ shower, workout, HIV-, intelligent. Be fun and hot!! ☎ 72611

"3, 4, 5, Whatever..."

Looking to hook up in a comfortable atmosphere with a group of extremely hot muscular men. Me: Handsome GBM, 33yo, 5'11", 185, stache, clean-cut, smooth, shv'd head. "Built To Perfection!" Let's Hook. ☎ 72612

2 Intense For One

Masc WM 6'3" 215 smooth 45 blue collar, must/ Van Dyke side burns, seeks two tops to get n between. Prefer hairy. Want to be taken down, HIV-. ☎ 72649

OTHER**"San Fran Hottest Studs!"**

GBM 33, 180#, solid, smooth, stache, masc. musc & GWM 35, tan, 190#, shaved head, body builder build, looking for some sexual hot male to make action. The more the merrier. Call "Won't be disappointed!" ☎ 72632

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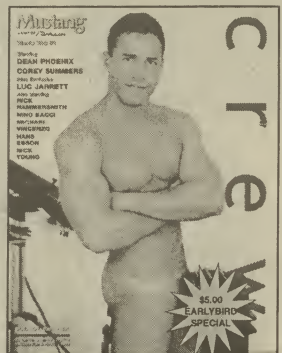
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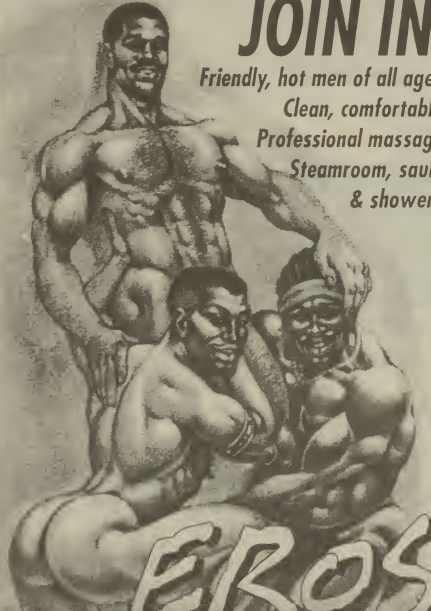


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Strange bedfellows

by Victoria A. Brownworth

[Editor's note: The BAR has switched over to all-electronic transmittal to our printer, and the bugs are still being worked out. Last week, due to a production error, the last five paragraphs of Victoria A. Brownworth's "Lavender Tube" column, "The good, the bad and the ugly," were cut off. They follow.]

The most biting commentary on the politics of the moment has come from *Politically Incorrect*. We particularly enjoyed Bill Maher revisiting *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* with an election spin ("All the Jews down in Jewville... voted for the Third Reich"). And it's been amazing to see the conservatives on his panels go wild over the hand count. PI regulars and Beltway insiders Ann Coulter and Niger Innis were beside themselves discussing the unfairness of the concept, "Every vote counts."

But Kristen Short, Exec. Dir. of Young Americans for Freedom, was the sort of Young Republican who takes the veil off compassionate conservatism and shows

the hydra within. She was absolutely creepy on the subject of race. Despite myriad reports that minority voters were either kept from voting or made to "prove" their right to vote, Short said, "Oh please. Nobody tried to keep African Americans from voting, Jesse Jackson's just playing the race card." Maher said she exemplified why no one would ever believe Republicans were the party of inclusion: they think because it doesn't happen to them, it doesn't happen to anyone.

Of course, with news taking over the small screen, we've missed some pivotal queer TV moments. *All My Children* airs just when all the big announcements from Florida have been coming in, thus Bianca's lesbianism has been sharing time with Warren Christopher and James Baker. But the storyline remains as frontburner as Florida in the real world. Bianca had a weak moment of trying to prove she could be straight — her drunken attempt with the high

school jock was a bust. Now she's cozying up to Laura, who seems to be giving her mixed signals, and pouring her heart out to Rain, whom we learned is homeless because her mother disowned her for being queer. This storyline continues to be very smart, incorporating a lot of real-life experiences of queer teens into the plot.

Moving along from Pine Valley to *Normal, Ohio* — on second thought, let's not. This show is fine if you're just looking for warmed-over

Roseanne. But the queer content is minimal, given the star is supposed to be gay, and it's simply not that funny — kind of like *Ellen*. Too bad. John Goodman should have stuck to playing Linda Tripp.

Speaking of *Saturday Night Live*, Will Ferrell and Darrell Hammond are so good at doing Bush and Gore it's scary. Their skits are the best on *SNL* in years. We'd almost be willing to have Bush be prez just to watch Ferrell do him every week. Almost. ▼



Lavender Tube

AC/DC

by Gregg Shapiro

In their 1979 song "Electricity," early electronic New Wave pioneers Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark sang about the power of plugging in, and in 1981, the Polecats sang, "Diode, cathode, electrode, overload/Generator, oscillator/make a circuit with me." More than 20 years later, electronic music is still creating a buzz.

The current wave of electronic-based bands takes the groundbreaking work of bands such as OMD and expands on it to make sounds to groove by or sounds to soothe by. Take the EP *Teenage Dream* (K) by IQU and Friends,

for instance. Once known as ICU, DJ K.O. and "friends" released the dazzling 1998 disc *Chotto Matte A Moment*. The song "Can't You Even Remember That?" from that album is included on *Teenage Dream* in two excellent remixes. But *Teenage Dream*'s main focus is on the seven remixes of the title track by cutting-edge remixers such as Looper, Lexaunculpt, Team 714, Dub ID, and Take One and Red Clay. They do what so many current remixers fail to do: they reinvent the song seven times, so that something new is revealed with each listen.

Imagine what would happen if the musical brains of Ryuichi Sakamoto, Fred Schneider, and Mark Mothersbaugh were thrown

into a blender and the pulse button was hit five times. Aside from being something of a gray matter mess, you might get something like the Spoozys' *Astral Astronauts* (Jetset), a this-fresh-sounding dose of electronic New Wave retro. This Japanese foursome comes highly recommended by members of Cibo Matto and Buffalo Daughter (both of whom have also shared a bill with IQU), Cornelius, and Pizzicato Five, and will have you pogoing around the dance floor wishing that you still had a mohawk and some Tenax to make it stand on end. Combining contemporary dance-music and electronic music styles (like drum 'n' bass rhythms) with punk guitars, goofy vocals, and all sorts of sampled sounds, the Spoozys make it safe and easy for '80s nostalgia to begin. "How Do We Communicate," "Russian U.F.O.," "A.I.," "Then And Now," and the title track are especially out of this world.

Time gets completely warped on *Meet The Lounge-O-Leers* (Emanar) by The Lounge-O-Leers. More than 20 years ago, the Silicon Teens recorded an album called *Music For Parties* on which they performed wacky but respectful synthesized covers of such classics as "Do Wah Diddy Diddy," "Sweet Little Sixteen," "Red River Rock," "Judy in Disguise," and "You Really Got Me," and the album is more fun than you might expect. The Lounge-O-Leers, Ricky Ritzel and Aaron "Red Hot" Morishita, have taken a similar approach, performing synthesized and lounge-ified versions of songs such as "Science Fiction, Double Feature" (from *Rocky Horror Picture Show*), "Mrs. Robinson," and an "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"/"Cast Your Fate to the Wind" medley. Especially daring (and amusing) are their covers of more contemporary songs, including "(Theme From) *The X-Files*," "Walking on the Sun," and "Smells Like Teen Spirit." This is a novelty disc that is actually kind of novel. ▼

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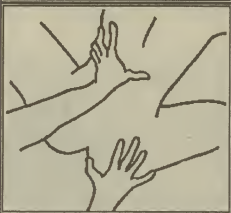
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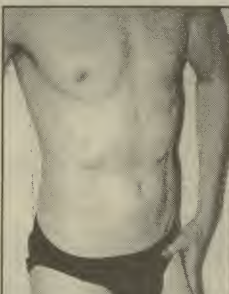
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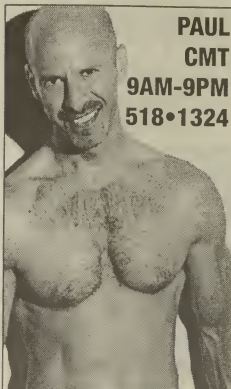
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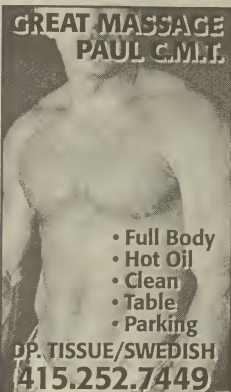
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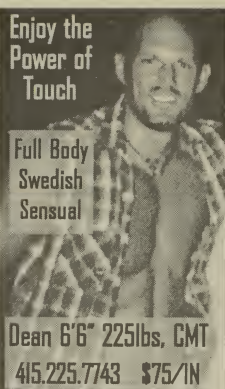
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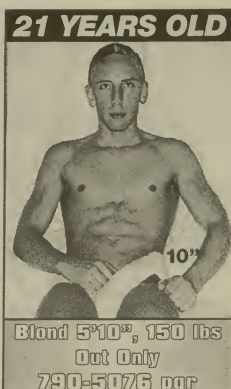
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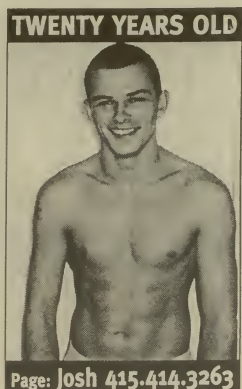
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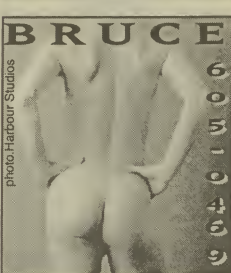
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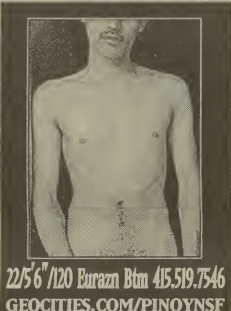
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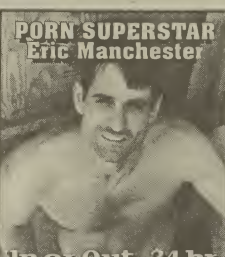
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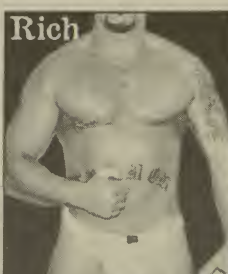
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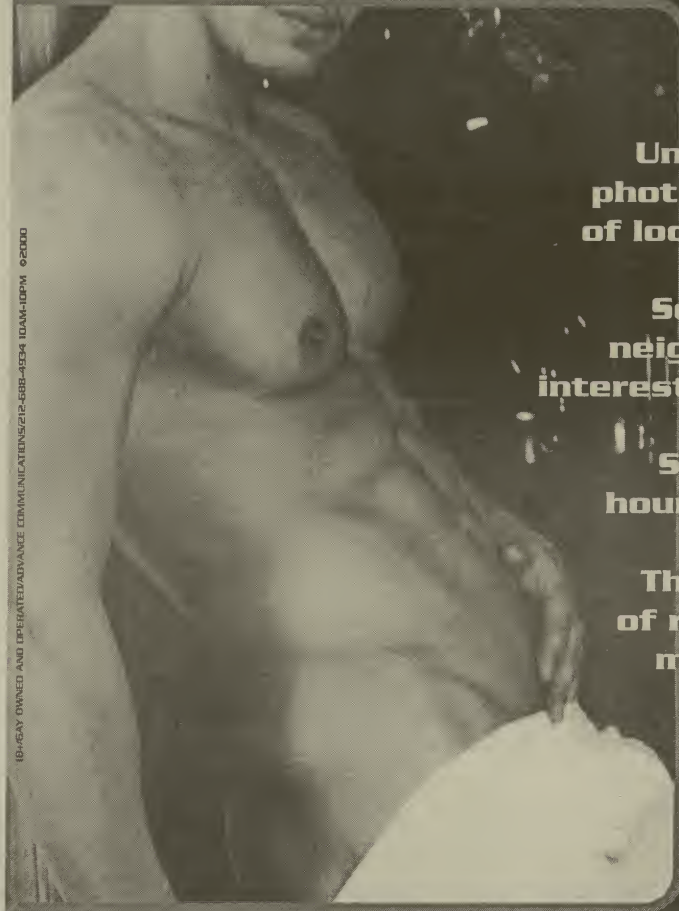
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